

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

PICK ME UP
I'm FREE

MIDLANDS

ZONE

MARCH 2020 ISSUE 274

PRISCILLA
pulls into Brum



EXCLUSIVE!

CHERYL

TO HEADLINE BIRMINGHAM PRIDE

MIDLANDS
ZONE

Readers' Awards
2020

**WINNERS
ANNOUNCED**

INSIDE!

+

**SCENE
FEATURES
WHAT'S ON
COMPETITIONS**

Genital knowledge quiz!

Do you know your vulva from your vagina? The average penis length in the UK? Take our quiz and test your genital knowledge... Answers at the bottom of the page!



1. What is the average penis size in the UK (when erect)?

- a) 5.16 inches
- b) 6.06 inches
- c) 7.26 inches

2. Complete the sentence, the vulva is...

- a) The inner lips
- b) The bit between the vaginal opening and the anus
- c) All the outer bits

3. True or false: Swollen balls can be a symptom of an STI.

- a) True
- b) False

4. Where can you get an STI?

- a) Vagina
- b) Bum
- c) Penis
- d) All of the above

5. Which of these vaginal discharges is a symptom of gonorrhoea?

- a) Thick and lumpy
- b) Green in colour
- c) Thin grey/white with a fishy smell

6. Can people who are asexual get erections?

- a) Yes
- b) No

7. How many nerve endings does the clitoris have?

- a) 2,000
- b) 5,000
- c) 8,000

8. Syphilis can cause what to appear on the genitals?

- a) One or more painless sores
- b) Small skin growths
- c) Both of the above

9. What should you do to keep your penis clean?

- a) Wash twice a day with scented shower gel
- b) Wash once a day with gentle soap and warm water
- c) Nothing - it cleans itself

10. True or false: All intersex people have a vagina and a penis

- a) True
- b) False

This quiz was brought to you by...

LGBTStoke

GayLife

GALA★

Find out more at lgbtstoke.co.uk

1. a) 5.16 inches 2. c) The vulva is all the outer bits. The inner lips are called the labia minora and the bit between the vaginal opening and anus is called the perineum 3. a) True 4. d) You can also get an STI in your mouth 5. b) Gonorrhoea can cause green/yellow vaginal discharge - a) is a common symptom of thrush and c) is a common symptom of bacterial vaginosis. 6. a) Yes 7. c) 8,000 (that's twice as many as in a penis) 8. c) One or more painless sores usually happens first and small skin growths can appear on the vagina and/or anus a few weeks after 9. b) And remember to clean underneath the foreskin! 10. b) False - Intersex is an umbrella term where sex chromosomes, internal sex organs and/or external genitals fall outside the strict male/female binary. Some variations might be visible and some might not.

What's inside:

38



March
issue

8



36



14



10



33



24



29



ALSO INSIDE:

News **4** Birmingham Pride Line-up 2020 **8**
Get your fetish on **10** Readers' Awards Winners **18**
Cat's Corner **27** Competitions **31**
Theatre/Arts **36** Now & 10 Years Ago **40**

Get connected...



@midlandszone



@midlandszone

www.midlandszone.co.uk



41

SCENE GUIDE

QUEER SEX AUTHOR IN BRUM

Internationally renowned trans writer and campaigner Juno Roche is heading to the Midlands this month to talk about her new book, *Trans Power*.

An Evening With Juno Roche, taking place at The Warehouse Cafe (54-57 Allison Street), Birmingham, on Wednesday 4 March, will see the bestselling author of *Queer Sex* explore what it means to be trans in 2020.

Accompanying Juno will be leading figures from the Trans community, including Kate Bornstein, Travis Alabanza, Josephine Jones, Glamrou and E-J Scott.

Entry to the event is free and Juno will be available to sign copies of *Trans Power*, which will also be on sale during the evening.

Leicester's Uni Pride to conclude with one-man show

De Montford University Pride comes to a close this month with a specially commissioned one-man show titled *The MP, Aunt Mandy And Me*.

Rob Ward's play is 'a bittersweet tale of political campaigns, coercive abuse and steam trains that looks at power and manipulation with a queer voice from the #MeToo movement'.

Central character Dom is desperate to live his best instagay life, but residing in a small rural town in the north of England, where the nearest gay is 10 miles away, makes meeting a potential boyfriend a little bit difficult. Until, that is, he's introduced to his local Labour MP...

The MP, Aunt Mandy And Me shows at The Curve, Leicester, on Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 March.



UK'S FIRST EVER MUSLIM PRIDE...



Saturday 11 April has been announced as the date for the UK's first ever Muslim Pride festival.

LGBT+ Muslim group Imaan is coordinating the get-together, which will take place in London at a yet-to-be-announced venue.

The crowdfunded festival comes in the wake of a difficult year for the LGBT+ Muslim population, with Muslim parents at two Birmingham primary schools protesting against the teaching of LGBT-inclusive equality lessons.

The parents, who were regularly joined by activists, argued that LGBT values do not sit comfortably with the Muslim faith.

Speaking about Muslim Pride, Imaan said: "We as LGBTQI Muslims often find ourselves isolated, without community and frequently facing homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and Islamophobic abuse."

"This event will build on the incredible events we've organised in the past and feature panels, discussions, speakers, arts, culture and history - a first for LGBTQI Muslims."

Will Young's Show & Tell to tour in the Midlands!

Gay rights activist and singer Will Young will make a stop at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn in the autumn as part of his first ever spoken-word tour.

The Pop Idol star will visit the venue on 7 October to talk to fans about his life and experiences.

Commenting on the production, which is called *Show And Tell*, Will said, "I'm really looking forward to this. It'll be a funny show, and I'll be talking about my career as well as looking at mental health, gay rights and much, much more. It's a spoken-word show - there's no music - and I'm excited to be following the publication of my new book with nine UK dates."



Have ya heard?



MIDLANDS PUSSYCATS

Chart-topping mega-group **The Pussycat Dolls** are reuniting for a **UK tour** and will play two Midlands dates in April. They will then return to the region in August, to perform an outdoor concert at **Wolverhampton Racecourse** as well as headlining **Brighton Pride**.

The multi-platinum pop sensations, who have sold more than 54 million records worldwide and streamed over one billion times, returned to the spotlight recently with the release of

their acclaimed new single, **React**. Commenting on their tour, front woman **Nicole Scherzinger** said: "I love all my girls so much and can't wait to show you what we've got in store for you. The Pussycat Dolls play **Arena Birmingham**, Wednesday 7 April, and **Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham**, Thursday 9 April. The girls then return in August to play **Brighton Pride** on Sunday 2 August and back to the Midlands to play **Wolverhampton Racecourse** on Friday 21 August.



GAY SPLASH PARTY IN COVENTRY

A popular gay venue has teamed up with **The Wave Water Park in Coventry** for '**The Big Yard Pool Party**' this month.

The event, organised by **The Yard in Coventry**, will take place on Thursday 5 March from 7pm-9.30pm and will feature DJ **Paul Morrell**.

Tickets for the event (16+ only) are just £5 available from thewavecoventry.com

Coventry man named Gay Role Model of the Year...

A Coventry man named Gay Role Model of the Year 2020 by LGBT charity Stonewall has revealed that it was a sense of isolation which prompted him to try and increase LGBT inclusion in his workplace.

Carl Edwards has been honoured by **Stonewall** after he founded the **LGBT+ Network at Severn Trent** - since which time he's worked tirelessly to increase LGBT-inclusion in his workplace.

Carl has reviewed all key policies to ensure they are LGBT-inclusive, created a trans-inclusion guide, and worked with the Employee Assistance Programme to ensure they provide LGBT support and advice.

He also influenced senior leaders to make LGBT-inclusion a priority, joining **Stonewall's Diversity Champions** programme, and has facilitated internal and external LGBT+ coffee mornings.

Carl also led and co-ordinated **Severn Trent's** attendance at the **Birmingham** and **Coventry Pride** events.

Away from work, he has set up **LGBTQ+**

inclusive rugby team the **Coventry Corsairs RFC**.

Speaking about his success, design technician **Carl** said: "If you're **LGBTQ+** but don't feel comfortable being yourself, everyday workplace questions like, 'What did you do at the weekend?' can be a source of stress if you've spent it with your same-sex companion.

"That's why I decided to try and create an **LGBT community**, so that anybody feeling isolated, as I had been feeling, would have somewhere to belong, so that they never again needed to feel alone.

"Over the last three years I've been able to create an **LGBTQ+ network group**, had a company-wide impact on policies, people and processes, and I've been involved in the creation of an **LGBTQ+ Allies** programme.

"Knowing we have a more inclusive workplace now not only makes me proud of this accomplishment and award, but also proud to work for **Severn Trent**."





SAT 23RD MAY 2020

MAIN STAGE

CHERYL

KATY B SAWEETIE

RITON MS BANKS BLACK BOX

BAGA CHIPZ VICKY JACKSON AS PINI RAINBOW VOICES

DANCE ARENA

PATRICK TOPPING

MELÉ BARELY LEGAL

EYES SHUT CRAIG GORDON SOPHIE PAUL D-JUSTINE RYAN BANGALTER

MANCHESTER AIRPORT CABARET STAGE

BAGA CHIPZ

**SUM TING WONG LOLA LASAGNE SHANIA PAIN MISS PENNY DAVE LYNN SANDRA LONDON KY KELLY
MARTHA D'ARTHUR TANYA HYDE TWIGGY MISS MARTY AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

FUTURE STAGE

BROOKE CANDY

**HARPIES STRIP CLUB GIRLS NIGHT OUT GAY GARAGE HOUSE OF BAB JAMES INDIGO
SXMSON MOTHERS MEETING I'M NOT OKAY SOFA KING ADAM KYRON FAUX**

**LIP SYNC STAGE • WOMENS ARENA • PRIDE PARADE
FOOD COURT • COMMUNITY STALLS • FUNFAIR**

TICKETS: BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM

SUN 24TH MAY 2020

MAIN STAGE

KELLY ROWLAND

SISTER SLEDGE

RAYE VENGABOYS FREEMASONS
PEPPERMINT DORIAN ELECTRA TOM ASPAUL GLITTER SH*T

DANCE ARENA

PREDITAH

JOSSY MITSU JOE HUNT WERDNA YAN ^{B2B} LISA SHARRED CLAZ JORDANNA

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

FLAVA D

MANCHESTER AIRPORT CABARET STAGE

VICKY JACKSON ^{AS PINK}

GINNY LEMON TOPSIE REDFERN DRAG WITH NO NAME AMY LAQUEEFA SANDRA LONDON
AVA CARDO TOTALLY TINA ROSE GARDEN MISS MARTY AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

FUTURE STAGE

ALICAI HARLEY

LICK EVENTS JUNGLE KITTY ONEDA WILE OUT KAYLEE GOULDING MIYAGI QUESTION

LIP SYNC STAGE • WOMENS ARENA

FOOD COURT • COMMUNITY STALLS • FUNFAIR

STRONGER
TOGETHER



Birmingham Pride confirms Girls Aloud's **CHERYL** as one of the headliners for the new bigger festival



CHERYL



Birmingham Pride has confirmed that former Girls Aloud band member Cheryl will take top billing on the Saturday of this year's festival.

The UK vocalist and television star, whose numerous solo hits include *Fight For This Love* - as well as a string of No.1s with Girls Aloud - will perform on the Birmingham Pride Main Stage on Saturday 23 May.

In addition to her successful music career, Cheryl is a well-known TV celebrity. She is currently one of the judges on BBC's *The Greatest Dancer* and has previously been a judge on *The X-Factor*.

Cheryl will be jointly headlining the Birmingham Pride festival with former Destiny's Child band member Kelly Rowland, who will perform on day two of the event, on Sunday 24 May.

Commenting on the announcement, Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence Barton said: "We're absolutely delighted to have two great headliners this year, with both Cheryl on the Saturday and Kelly Rowland on the Sunday, together with a host of other superb artists, including Sister Sledge, Katy B and The Vengaboys. It's our biggest line-up to date."

Popular artists Katy B, Saweetie, Riton, Ms Banks and Blackbox have been announced to perform on the Pride Main Stage on Saturday 23 May. Meanwhile, Soul legends Sister Sledge (*We Are Family*) have been added to the Sunday 24 May line-up.



KELLY ROWLAND

RAYE



KATY B



RITON



BAGA CHIPZ



SAWEETIE



MS BANKS

Photo credit: Chris Baker

In addition to the traditional Pride Parade through the streets of Birmingham, the Festival will also include the Cabaret Stage - featuring RuPaul's DragRace UK finalist Baga Chipz - a Dance Arena featuring a host of DJs - including Preditah and Flava D - and a Future Stage featuring Alicai Harley. There will also be a Lip Sync stage, a funfair, community stalls and a food court.

This year marks the start of a brand new era for Birmingham Pride - one of the UK's largest LGBTQ festivals - with the event's entertainment areas, including the Main Stage, Cabaret Stage, Dance Arena and funfair, all being situated on Smithfield, the former Birmingham Wholesale Market site adjacent to the city's gay village.

The Birmingham Pride Street Party, which runs alongside the Festival, will continue to take place within the gay village area, which will also host the Future Stage. Tickets for the street party only can be purchased separately for the first time this year.

Festival tickets for Birmingham Pride, which takes place on Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 May, are now available at www.birminghampride.com Accompanied children under 12 and senior citizens will be able to go to the Festival and Street Party free of charge.



SISTER SLEDGE VENGABOYS PEPPERMINT



BIRMINGHAM FETISH WEEKEND



a non-stop weekend of fetish and fun!

If your fancy is leather, rubber, sports, skin or pup play, then head to Brum's Gay Village this month to join fellow kinksters as they enjoy the city's first-ever fetish weekend - complete with dinners, barge parties, club nights and award ceremonies...



UNLEASH YOUR FETISH!

Birmingham Fetish Men's (BFM) quarterly get-together is this month presenting a full weekend of events for the very first time (13 - 15 March). Here are just a few of the highlights...

Friday 13th March

WELCOME DRINKS

The Fountain at 7.30pm

MR LEATHER UK

Making its Birmingham debut - and a first for BFM - Mr Leather UK is an annual competition which sees the contestants whittled down to a final five to compete for the prestigious title.

The event will be compered by BFM supporter & friend Miss Penny. A new Mr Leather UK will be crowned by midnight.

Eden Bar, 9pm, £5 entry

Dress code - Anything fetish - rubber, leather, skin, rugby, sports gear, pup...

After... Party on at Eden Bar or head over to Boltz Club for BFM Afterdark Part 1.

Saturday 14th March

FLOATING FETISH BARGE TRIP

Men dressed in gear, floating around the canals of Birmingham on a guided tour while very camp music blares out...

The tour takes two-and-a-half hours. Licenced bar included.

JUST A SCRITCH

Pup-focused event at Eden Marquee for pups, handlers and those who are just curious as to what's going on with pup play. Free event.

GEAR TUNES LIVE

Massive effort to raise as much cash as possible for the Albert Kennedy Trust - a voluntary organisation which helps members of the LGBTQ+ community who are homeless, living in a hostile environment or in a housing crisis. Current Mr Rubber UK, Andrew Holt, and Mr Rubber Europe will both be in attendance.

community who are homeless, living in a hostile environment or in a housing crisis. Current Mr Rubber UK, Andrew Holt, and Mr Rubber Europe will both be in attendance.

6pm - 7.30pm

BFM PARTY

Eden Marquee 9.30pm - 3am.

Sunday 15th March

BIZARRE BAZAAR

Standing event held at the Nightingale, catering to the alt market and featuring lots of new & second-hand kinky gear and pup attire, available to purchase.

THE LAST GASP

Anyone still standing after Leather Social can join in with Eden's regular karaoke night with Nicky.



Images from Birmingham Fetish Men's last social at Eden Bar

GET GEARED UP!

Now you've made your plans for Birmingham Fetish Weekend, it's time to stock up your gear - so check out our top picks from our friends at Clonezone. Head to their website clonesonedirect.co.uk or get along to their Birmingham store to pick up your pieces!

Harnesses

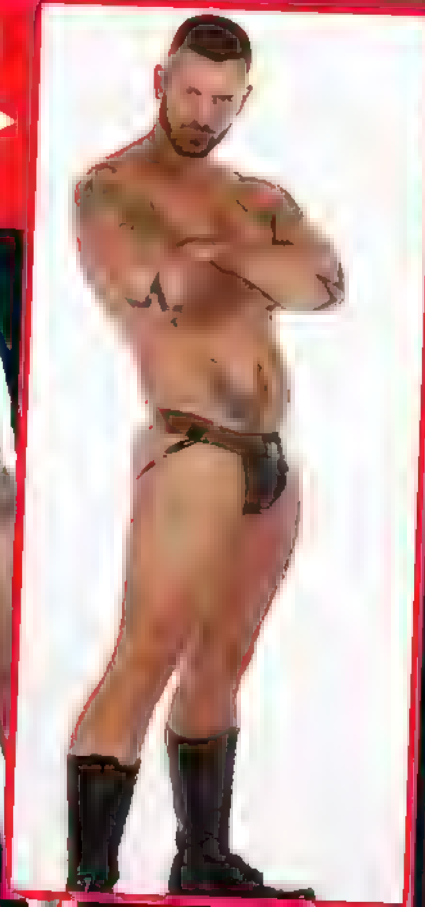
Harnesses are the perfect way to begin (or finish off) your kink outfit. We love Fetish Gear's Solid Colour Leather H-Front Chest Harness in Blue (£94.99) with matching Locker Room Jockstrap (£12.99). If you're looking for a more timeless piece to be dressed up or down, check out the Titus Deluxe Double Stitching H-Front Chest Harness (£99.99).



Rubber and Latex

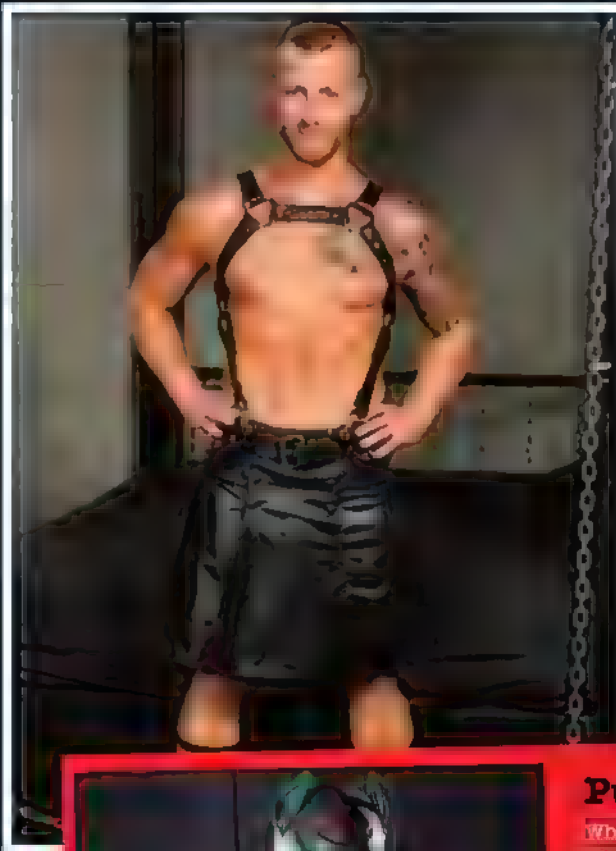
As one of the most popular fetishes around, it's no surprise that rubber and latex pieces are in plentiful supply at Clonezone. The SPARTA Tauri Latex Chest Harness (£62) in eye-popping pink is a stand-out piece.

But if you're feeling extra brave, try out the Invincible Rubber PIG jockstrap (£32.99)!



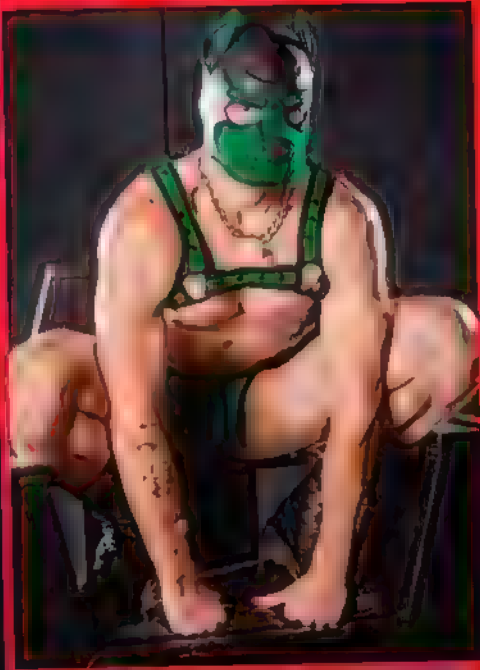
Leather

Clonezone stock the world famous Mister B, known for their high-quality handmade leather pieces. As one of the brand's most popular items, the Outside Zip Leather Chaps (£399.99) is a classic piece that will work well for any leather look. If you fancy trying something different, then the Black Leather Kilt (£459.99) will definitely get people's heads turning.



Puppy Play

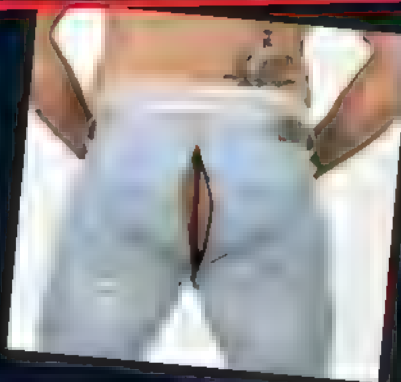
Whether someone's been a good boy or maybe a bad dog, Clonezone has everything you need to give a dog a bone! Alongside puppy collars, leashes and collars, Clonezone stock a wide range of puppy hoods (£109.99-£139.99) in every colour you can imagine.



Skin Gear

If you're a fan of the rough & ready, Bleachers & CO offer a wide range of Skin Gear to suit all your skinhead needs.

If you're feeling cheeky (see what we did there!), why not give their Skinny Fit Jeans with a Rear Zipper (£79.99) a try. Or if you want to make more of a statement, their Classic Blue & Bleach Levi's Skinny Fit Jean with Rear Zipper (£99.99) will do the trick!



Birmingham's Killer Queens is a photography art project by Laura Chen which focuses on the city's drag queens. Each month, we'll be taking a look at different artists who feature in the project.



MidlandsZone.co.uk 15

BIRMINGHAM'S
**KILLER
QUEENS**





MAMA MAMBA

"My first encounter with drag was when I was just 14 and my mum took me to see The Rocky Horror Picture Show. I found myself in awe of the main character, Frankfurter, a futuristic transvestite."

"I've always been naturally drawn to the queer-minded and LGBT+ community, because we share the same kind of views."

"I do believe that the gender binary is very outdated and a lot more complex than people perceive. I feel as though a lot of people need to be educated on this, and drag could be one way to open people's minds and explore this construct."

"It definitely took a bit of building up to - and even now, going out in drag can be very daunting."

"Also, being a plus-sized woman in very little clothing can be terrifying. But the more you do it, the more you learn to cope with it and embrace it regardless. I've definitely come a long way in terms of confidence since I started."

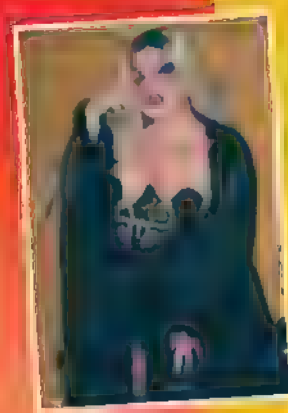
"Once I'm in a safe space - eg, at the club - then it's fine, but it's getting to that place that can be scary. Obviously it draws a lot of attention, usually from the wrong kind of people."

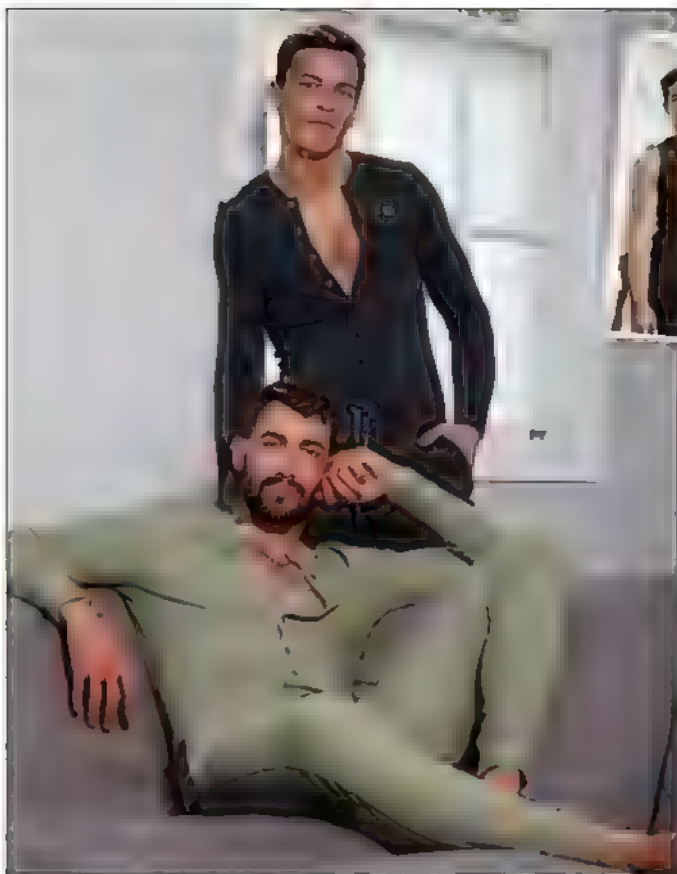
"The main thing I want to prove is that women can be drag queens."

"This is something that gets questioned a lot. Many people will say that we aren't 'real' drag queens, but if someone is putting just as much time, effort, talent and artistry into something, then I don't see why their genitals have to define their art."

"My stage name is Mama Mamba, and one of the first songs to which I did a lip sync was When You're Good To Mama - so Mama came from that. Mamba came from the snake - the black mamba. I have a huge love for snakes. I have a pet one which I used in a performance once. They're seen as dangerous and exciting, which is how I like my performances to feel."

Killer Queens concept & photography by Laura Chen





TEAMM8

exclusively at clonezone



BIRMINGHAM
84 HURST STREET, B5 4TD
CLONEZONE.CO.UK | 0121 666 6640



NHS



Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).



Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:
Day: Saturday 12th December
Time: 11am - 1.30pm
Place: 38 Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ

City Celts Sauna Clinic:
Day: Mondays | Time: 4pm - 7pm
Day: Wednesdays | Time: 3pm - 5pm
Place: 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ



Day: Thursdays
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR

Further information available

www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk



You can also check out Trade Sexual Health:

www.tradesexualhealth.com

Midlands

ZONE

Readers' Awards 2020

Winners announced!

Birmingham Pride wins again!

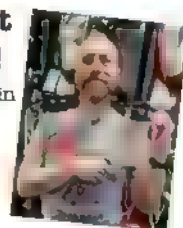
It's no surprise that Birmingham Pride has bagged the Best Midlands Pride Event award for the umpteenth time.

A big thumbs-up to Coventry Pride and Leicester Pride too - Silver and Bronze award winners respectively!

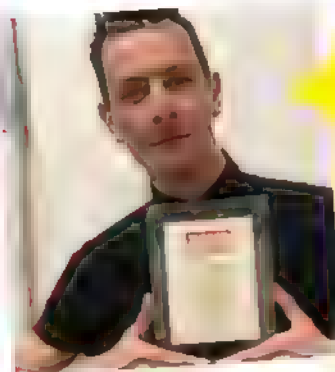


Shop till you drop at this award winner!

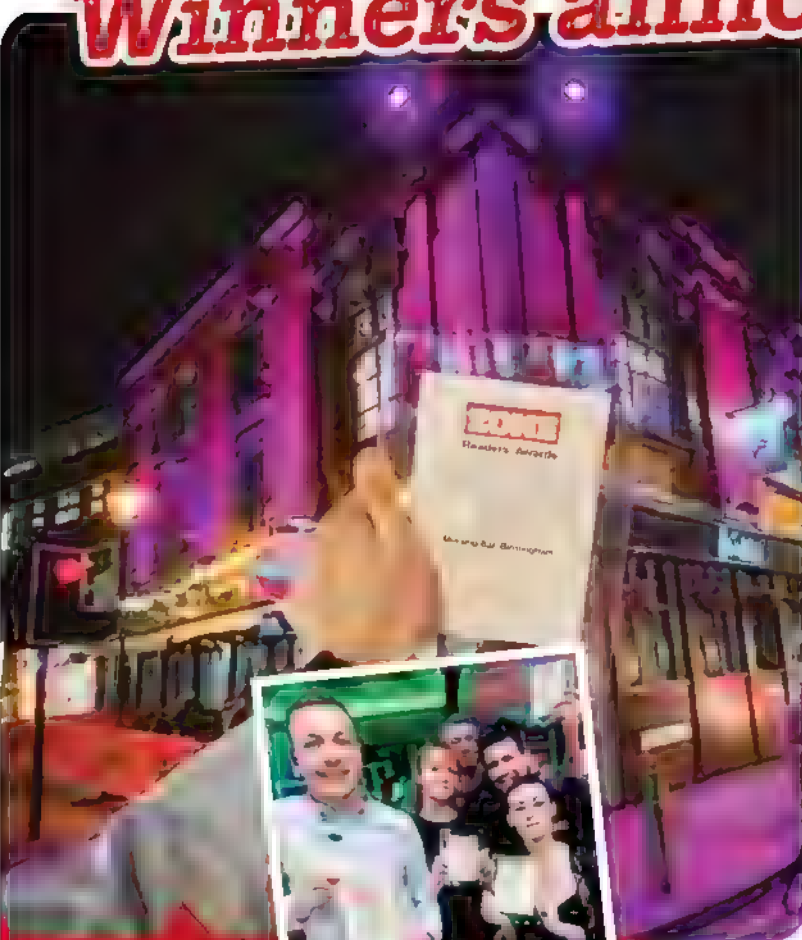
There's a reason why they win the Best Gay-Friendly Shop award each and every year - it's because Clonezone are simply the best!



Jon wins Best Front of House award for first time!



Congratulations to The Loft manager Jon Ingram on winning his first-ever award for Best Front of House Person. Now might be the right time to ask Lawrence for a payrise, Jon.



Missing Bar in Birmingham is a big hit following its refurbishment last year so much it's won the GOLD award for Best Refurbished Gay Venue!

GOLD AWARDS:

Best Refurbished Gay Venue
Best Compere/Host: Amy LaQueefa

SILVER AWARDS:

Best Midlands Venue for the Trans Community
Best Compere/Host: Twigg

BRONZE AWARDS:

Best Birmingham Gay Bar
Best Front of House Team

**more WINNERS
announced!**

Best Overall Brum Gay Venue award

goes to... the Nightingale!

Eden scoop 15 awards!

Garry and Carol at Eden Bar are big winners once again - scooping 5 Gold awards, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze. Well done guys! And it's an exciting year ahead with the guys' new Blackpool venue Sherlocks set to open this summer.

5 GOLD AWARDS:

Best Birmingham Gay Bar
Best Midlands Community Venue
Best Front of House Team
Best Midlands Bar/Club for Men
Best Venue for the Trans Community

5 SILVER AWARDS:

Best Live Entertainment Venue
Best One Nighter - Killer Queens
Best Birmingham Overall Gay Venue
Best Outdoor Area
Best Bar DJ - Simon Baker

5 BRONZE AWARDS:

Hero of the Year - Cal Locata
Best FoH Person - Maura Walsh
Best Midlands Security Team
Best Bar DJ - DJ Fon
Best Venue for Women

Congratulations to 'team Nightingale' on winning GOLD in the coveted Best Overall Birmingham Gay Venue category. They were also named Best Birmingham Gay Nightclub. Both awards are extremely fitting as the venue celebrated its 50th birthday last year. Well done guys!



Miss Penny is Best Cabaret

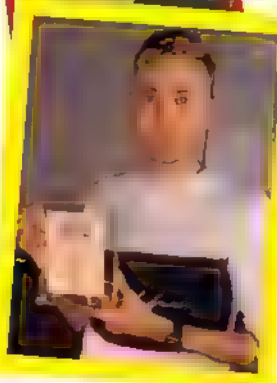
Miss Penny bagged Gold for Best Midlands Cabaret Act yet again. She also won Silver award for Best National Cabaret Act and Midlands Scene Personality Of The Year. Very impressive Matt!

DJ Corey reclaims Best Club DJ award...

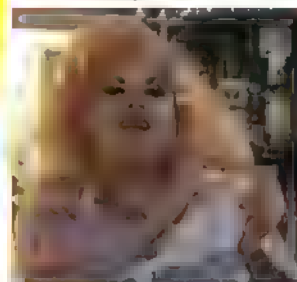
Well done to DJ Corey for getting back on top and winning GOLD in the Best Club DJ category. Hot on her heels were DJ James Levett (Silver), and last year's winner DJ Robbie Lewis who received Bronze.

Richard Moon wins Gold for Best Bar DJ...

Congratulations to Richard Moon from The Village Inn who's won the Gold award for Best Midlands Bar DJ for the very first time!



Best Host goes to LaQueefa...



Despite tough competition, the Best Midlands Compere & Host award went to Missing Bar's very own Amy LaQueefa. Big congrats also goes to Twigg who received Silver; and The Village Inn's Blanche, who bagged Bronze

Birmingham LGBT have a lot to SHOUT about!

Birmingham LGBT not only won GOLD for Best Charity/Group of Achievement once again - they were also awarded GOLD for the Best LGBT Event for SHOUT Festival which last year celebrated its 10th year. A big well done - your success is very much deserved.



The Loft again voted Best Café Bar & Restaurant!

Well done to the team at The Loft for winning Best Midlands Café Bar & Restaurant award - an accolade they've won more times than the Midlands Zone team have had hot dinners! They also won GOLD for Best Outdoor Area - and of course Jon Ingram won Best Front of House Person!



The Yard bags 12 awards!

The Yard in Coventry was once again one of the big winners this year, bagging 3 Gold, 6 Silver and 3 Bronze awards...

GOLD AWARDS:

Best Midlands Overall Gay Venue
(outside Birmingham)
Best Midlands Gay Bar
(outside Birmingham)
Best Midlands Gay Club
(outside Birmingham)

Best Cafe Bar/Restaurant
Best Midlands Venue for Men
Best Venue for Women
Best Bar DJ - Simon Baker
Best Midlands Security Team
Best Refurbished Venue

Best Community Venue
Best Live Entertainment Venue
Best Security Person
- Levi Russell

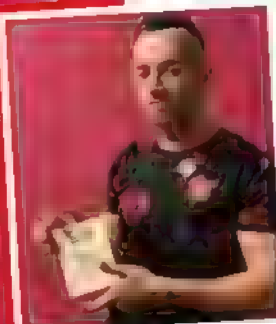
The Saturnos Best Cabaret Newcomers

Congratulations to The Saturnos on winning GOLD in a new award this year - Best Cabaret Newcomers. You can see the duo regularly at The Yard in Coventry



3 Gorgeous awards!

Team Gorgeous might not have received a GOLD award this year but they still scooped two Silver awards and one Bronze. Resident DJ James Levett was delighted to receive a Silver award for Best Club DJ. You can hear him play at the venue every Friday and Saturday.



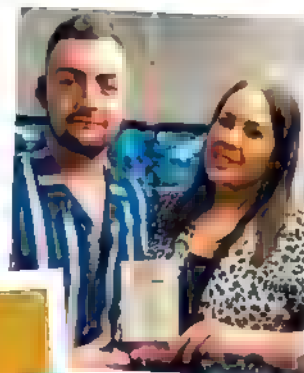
Midlands

ZONE Readers' Awards 2020

Best Live Entertainment award gets reclaimed by The Village

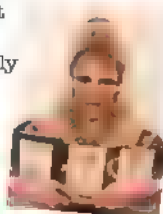
Congratulations to The Village Inn on winning GOLD in the coveted Best Birmingham Gay Bar category!

The venue enjoyed further success with Scott Hilton winning Best DJ, and regular drag host Miss Penny bagging three GOLDS. There were a number of silver and bronze awards too.



More Secure with Kimberley

Well done to Kimberley Jones from The Village Inn for getting GOLD in 'Best Venue Security Person' - and the entire security team at The Village also won GOLD for Best Security Team.



Top Villain Blanche

Now we know exactly why Blanche from The Village Inn was voted Villian of the Year this year - because she clearly can't keep her bloody trap shut! She only went and broke our strict embargo and released the fact she had won to all her 12 Facebook Fans before we could say a word! But well done love!

Praise be to Yshee Black

Congratulations to Yshee Black at The Village Inn for Church of Yshee being voted Best One-Nighter Event - a new season of this very popular event starts on Sunday 1 March



Here's the full list of WINNERS of this year's awards and the % vote...

Best Midlands Bar DJ

Gold Richard Moon - The Village Inn	25%
Silver Simon Baker - The Yard/Eden	23%
Bronze DJ Poni - Eden	20%
Other finalists	
Scott Hilton The Village	16%
Mike Emery Missing	16%

Best Midlands Club DJ

Gold Corey Hadley - Nightingale/ The Village	24%
Silver James Levett - Gorgeous Wolverhampton	23%
Bronze Robbie Lewis - Nightingale Club	22%

Other finalists

James Silver Club Chic	20%
DJ Bradderz Gossip	10%
Destiny Dyson	1%

Best Midlands

Front of House Person

Gold Jon Ingram - The Loft - Birmingham	21%
Silver Mikey Elston - The Village Inn	20%
Bronze Maura Walsh - Eden Bar	15%

Other finalists

Sian Gourlay The Yard	14%
Stephen Lambert Missing	13%
Garry Prentice Eden	12%
Kayleigh Taffe The Loft	8%

Midlands Gay Venue with the Best FOH Team

Gold Eden - Birmingham	26%
Silver The Loft, B'ham	22%
Bronze Missing, B'ham	20%
Other finalists	
The Village Inn	17%
The Yard, Coventry	15%

Best Midlands

Security Person

Gold Kimberley Jones - The Village Inn	24%
Silver Joanne Tranter - Bar Diva, Dudley	23%
Bronze Levi Russell - The Yard	22%

Other finalists

Janine Webb The Yard	21%
Carl Cline Gossip	10%

Midlands Gay Venue with the Best Security Team

Gold The Village Inn	25%
Silver The Yard, Coventry	24%
Bronze Eden	18%
Other finalists	
Missing, Bar	17%
The Loft, Birmingham	16%

Best Midlands

Compere / Host

Gold Amy LaQueefa	35%
Silver Twiggy	22%
Bronze Ysheel Black	21%
Other finalists	
Rockella, The Yard	15%
Bianche The Village Inn	7%

Best Midlands

Entertainment Act

Gold Miss Penny	41%
Silver Ginny Lemon	21%
Bronze Marty Smith	20%
Other finalists	
Amy LaQueefa	12%
Trixie Lee	4%

Best National

Entertainment Act

Gold Baga Chipz	31%
Silver Miss Penny	28%
Bronze Mary Mac	17%
Other finalists	
Sandra	16%
The Vivienne	8%

Midlands Scene

Personality of the Year

Gold Marty Smith	35%
Silver Miss Penny	34%
Bronze Amy LaQueefa	14%
Other finalists	
Garry Prentice	13%
Queeny	4%

Best Birmingham

Gay Bar

Gold Eden	28%
Silver Village Inn	27%
Bronze Missing	21%
Other finalists	
The Loft	20%
The Fox	4%

Best Birmingham

Gay Nightclub

Gold The Nightingale	68%
Silver Glamorous	12%
Bronze Club Chic	11%
Other finalists	
Boltz	5%
The Village Underground	4%

Best Birmingham

Overall Gay Venue

Gold The Nightingale	23%
Silver Eden	22%
Bronze The Village Inn	20%
Other finalists	
Missing	18%
The Loft	17%

Best Midlands Gay Bar

(outside Birmingham)

Gold The Yard, Coventry	42%
Silver Bar Diva, Dudley	24%
Bronze Glamorous, Coventry	20%
Other finalists	
The Lion Walsall	12%
The Flag Worcester	11%

Best Midlands Gay Nightclub (outside Birmingham)

Gold The Yard, Coventry	23%
Silver Glamorous, Coventry	22%
Bronze Gorgeous, Wolverhampton	21%
Other finalists	
Gossip Stoke	20%
The Lion, Walsall	11%
Propaganda Nottingham	3%

Best Midlands Overall Gay Venue

(outside Birmingham)

Gold The Yard, Coventry	27%
Silver Gorgeous, Wolverhampton	25%
Bronze Glamorous, Coventry	17%
Other finalists	
Bar Diva, Dudley	16%
Gossip, Stoke-on-Trent	15%

Best Midlands

Community Venue

Gold Eden	41%
Silver The Loft	27%
Bronze The Yard	25%
Other finalists	
Dover Castle, Leicester	5%
Equator, Birmingham	2%

Best Midlands Café Bar/Restaurant

Gold The Loft, B'ham	61%
Silver The Yard, Coventry	26%
Bronze The Peach Tree, Shrewsbury	8%

Other finalists

Sidewalk, B'ham	3%
Rainbow & Dove, Leicester	2%

Best Midlands Venue for Men

Gold Eden	31%
Silver The Yard, Coventry	21%
Bronze Boltz	20%

Other finalists

The Fountain, Birmingham	19%
Bar Diva, Dudley	9%

Best Midlands Venue

for Women

Gold The Fox	26%
Silver The Yard, Coventry	25%
Bronze Eden, Birmingham	23%
Other finalists	
Bar Diva Dudley	21%
Gossip, Stoke-on-Trent	5%

Best Midlands Venue for Trans Community

Gold Eden Bar	32%
Silver Missing Bar, Birmingham	21%
Bronze The Village Inn, Birmingham	20%
Other finalists	
The Yard Coventry	19%
Equator Birmingham	8%

Best Midlands Gay Venue

Entertainment Act

Gold The Loft	23%
Silver Eden	21%
Bronze The Village Inn, Birmingham	20%
Other finalists	
The Yard, Coventry	19%
The Lion, Walsall	17%

Best Midlands New Gay Venue/Refurbishment

Gold Missing Bar, Birmingham	64%
--	-----

Silver The Yard, Coventry	15%
Bronze Sequin Showstoppers	14%

Other finalists

Glamorous Coventry	4%
Gossip Stoke	3%

Best Midlands Live Entertainment Venue

Gold The Village Inn	20%
Silver Eden, B'ham	19%
Bronze The Yard, Coventry	18%
Other finalists	
Nightingale Club	16%
Missing Bar, Birmingham	15%
Bar Diva Dudley	12%

Best Midlands One-Nighter

Gold Church of Ysheel - The Village Inn	33%
Silver Killer Queens -Eden	19%
Bronze Klub Kids at The Nightingale	17%
Other finalists	
Identity at The Yard	16%
Quizzical at Eden	15%

Best Midlands Pride Event

Gold Birmingham Pride	71%
Silver Coventry Pride	12%
Bronze Leicester Pride	10%
Other finalists	
Stoke-on-Trent Pride	5%
Walsall Pride	2%

Best Midlands

LGBT Event

Gold SHOUT Festival	31%
Silver The Circle - The Loft, Birmingham	26%
Bronze CineQ Film Festival, Birmingham	18%
Other finalists	
Mid Bears Eden B'ham	17%
Queer Prom Nightingale	8%

Best Midlands LGBT Char- ity/Group of Achievement

Gold Birmingham LGBT	65%
Silver Prism Coventry	11%
Bronze THT	6%
Other finalists	
Positive West Midlands	4%
Finding A Voice	3%

Best Midlands Sport or Social Group

Gold The Circle	28%
Silver B'ham Bulls RFC	26%
Bronze B'ham Gay Symphony Orchestra	23%

Other finalists

Rainbow Voices	12%
Coventry Corsairs Rugby Club	11%

Best Midlands Sauna/ Health Club

Gold The Greenhouse, Darlaston	71%
Silver Spartan, Birmingham	12%
Bronze Splash, Leicester	8%
Other finalists	
Harces Stourbridge	6%
Club 29 Leicester	3%

Best Midlands LGBT-friendly Retail Store

Gold Clonezone	81%
Silver Prowler Online	8%
Bronze Selfridges, Birmingham	8%

Other finalists

Harvey Nichols, Birmingham	4%
John Lewis, Birmingham	2%

Hero of the Year

Gold Andrew Moffat - No Outsiders	36%
Silver Lawrence Barton - Birmingham Pride	21%
Bronze Cal Licata - Eden / Save The Gay Village	20%

Other finalists

Scott Gethings - The Circle	12%
Richard Easter - Coventry Gay Scene	11%

Villain of the Year

Gold Blanche - The Village Inn	24%
Silver Rockella, The Yard, Coventry	23%
Bronze Shakeel Afsar	20%

Other finalists

Roger Goddard	17%
Gooch Estates	16%

New Cabaret Act

Gold The Saturnos	21%
Silver Dahliah Rivers	19%
Bronze Blanche	14%

Other finalists

Jay Cube	13%
Dominus Von Vexo	12%
Poppycock	11%
Mama Mamba	10%

TV Show of the Year

Gold RuPaul's DragRace UK	61%
Silver POSE	30%
Bronze Drag SOS	14%

Other finalists

Sex Education	4%
Queer Eye	1%

Outstanding Achievement to the LGBTQ Community Award

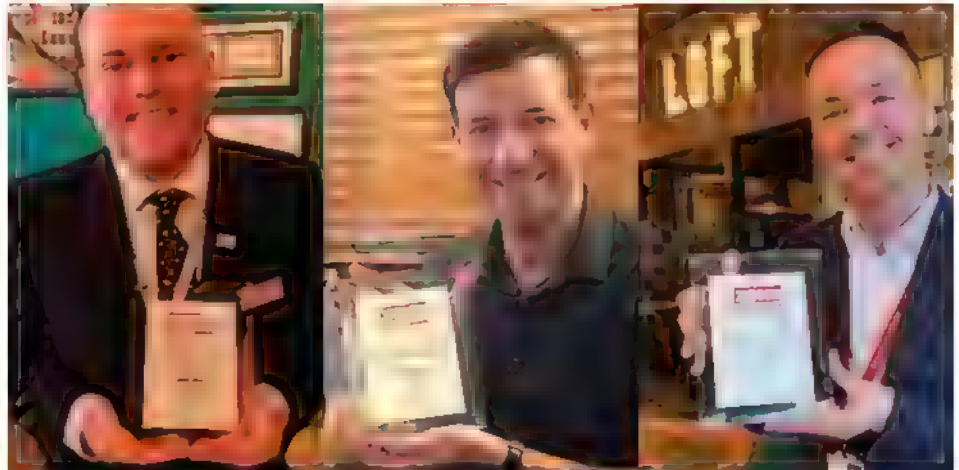
Richard Easter in recognition of creating a vibrant gay scene in Coventry

Andrew Moffat in recognition of his 'No Outsiders' schools project

LGBT+ Lifetime Achievement Award

Lawrence Barton in recognition of heading up Birmingham Pride for 10-plus years

HUGE congratulations to all of our winners and finalists for a great year. Keep up the hard work!


THE LGBTQ Communities Hero of The Year
Andrew Moffat

Andrew has been voted Hero of The Year and was also awarded an Outstanding Contribution to the LGBTQ Community in recognition of creating No Outsiders programmes in schools

Outstanding Contribution to the LGBTQ Community
Richard Easter

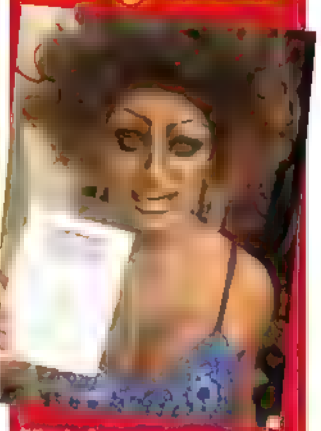
Richard has been awarded an Outstanding Contribution to the LGBTQ Community in recognition of creating a vibrant gay scene in Coventry over the last three years.

The LGBTQ Lifetime Achievement Award
Lawrence Barton

Lawrence has been awarded The LGBTQ Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 10-plus years heading up the Birmingham Pride Festival.


LGBTQ Social Group of The Year goes to The Circle at The Loft

A massive well done to Scott Gethings and the team at The Circle in Birmingham on being awarded LGBTQ Social Group of the Year. The Circle, which only launched 8 months ago, is a social gathering for the LGBTQ community promoting mental health and wellbeing. The group also won a Silver Award for Best LGBTQ Event. Well done to all concerned.

Personality of the Year goes to... Marty Smith


Marty has won many Midlands Zone Awards over the years but this is the first time she's won the coveted Scene Personality of The Year! Well done!



LET'S TALK: The Lacey Lou Column



Let's talk...

Adulting life hacks

Being an adult is hard and there's no manual. If you're anything like me, it can sometimes feel like you're constantly behind on everything - and looking a mess while being so! But what I've come to realise is that half of being an adult is just looking like you have your shit together.

That's what everyone else is doing... looking the part!

If you can do even the basic life essentials or at least fake it, you're doing great, sweetie. Try out some of these - they make me look like a bloody adulting pro.

1 Always moisturise, preferably using a moisturiser with sunscreen. The thing that will age you most is UV. And also, soft skin is hot (an actual review I got from a lover recently, so it's not bullshit!).



2 Carry a water bottle and drink loads of water. It's amazing for your skin and hair, and it also makes you look like you care about your wellbeing. They don't need to know there's vodka in there sometimes.



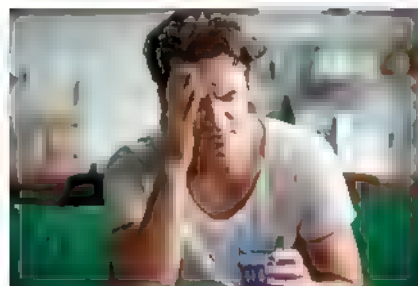
3 Bag essentials. Some nice smelly spray, wet wipes, lipsalve/lipstick, breath spray. You can combat so many scenarios with these four gems - let your imagination run wild.



4 Putting away as little as £5 a week will make you 'someone with savings'. Increase or decrease depending on how much alcohol and/or how many cigarettes you need to get you through the week.



5 Continuing to drink on a hangover is the only way you will get through it. It's tried and tested - I don't make the rules. *I won't be held accountable for loss of job and/or family arguments caused by you being a piss-head.



6 Carry around a portable phone-charger. You need your phone juiced for those awkward moments alone in public, to save your anxiety.



7 Cook all your meals at home and take them with you. I know takeaways are the bollocks and you probably don't know how to season your food correctly, but this is adult life. Embrace the herbs & spices and watch your bank account blossom.



8 Keep a diary with all your appointments and things to do for that week. You won't ever need to keep things in your head again. Keep that free for the important things, like politics and porn.

9 Tidy house equals tidy mind. While you're at it, declutter all the shit you're hoarding. Voila, now there's more space to hoard new shit.



10 Don't be afraid to ask your friends for help and for their life hacks. Communication is key, and they don't have a fucking clue either.

Congratulations, you've just graduated in adulting!

Lots of love,

Lacey X

TWITTER: @LaceyXMidlandsZone

VOSS EVENTS PRESENTS



MAY 12
BIRMINGHAM
Arena Birmingham



TICKETS:
THETICKETFACTORY.COM



**WORLD
WONDER**

Phillip VS Jameela

Two telly stars came out recently but received very different reactions from the public...

That man is never off the telly! And then he took over the news too! He has long been the Lord of Lightweight Entertainment, the Mayor of Morning Gossip, the Champion of Desperate Dancing, but I always thought it was the other one who was the more talented. It's desperately unjust that Phillip has all the fame and fortune while poor old Gordon the Gopher wallows in obscurity...

Two stars of daytime TV came out at about the same time recently - Jameela Jamil and Phillip - but seemed to get very different reactions. Jameela said she was queer on Twitter, while Phillip came out as gay on Instagram. The two coming-outs had some similarities - both Jameela and Phillip are ostensibly in straight relationships, both had kept their sexuality secret for some time, and both were initially watched on TV by hungover people - Phillip on *Going Live* and Jameela on *T4*. And both, weirdly, have a strong connection to dancing. Both seem to be very nice, liked and popular people too - saccharine-sweet, some might say. Despite both being well-known faces, they rarely court controversy or salacious gossip. Until now.

Both chose to make written statements on social media, proudly and confidently announcing that they had been guarding a secret about their sexuality but now wanted to be open about who they were and always had been, while not making immediate changes in relation to their straight partners.



But there the barrel of similarities runs completely dry. Jameela got something of a negative backlash, to the extent that she's described her self-outing as a perfect clusterfuck. She has been described as doing it only for her career - even a calculated move to save her new job in ballroom.

By contrast, Phillip appears to have received very little other than praise in response to his revelations. His bravery has been heralded. Social media is full of people (everyone from celebrities to us nonentities) commending him for honesty. Love and support has flooded in from all directions. Even Piers Morgan was nice about him; very nice, in fact.

So what's caused the difference in

reaction? Is Phillip so universally popular that he can even reveal that his entire 27-year marriage has been a lie and we all still love him? Is Jameela so unpopular that simply saying she's not quite sure she's totally straight is completely unforgivable? I'm not sure that either is true.

I also find it hard to accept that the different ways we've dealt with coming out is related to the gender of the coming-outer. For decades we've said that, for the public, gayness in men is harder to swallow (sorry...) than in women. I don't see that that has suddenly reversed, no matter how mad it is.

No, I think it's all down to labels. While both Jameela and Phillip were in similar situations relationship-wise, they used different words. Phillip said 'gay', Jameela said 'queer'. Both are, of course, legitimate terms and can be confidently used within LGBTQ communities, but they're perhaps being perceived differently by those less used to them. Do we, as the general public, feel more at ease with 'gay' than 'queer'?

Shakespeare had a lot to say about roses. He was quite sure that it didn't matter what you called a rose, it would always smell just as sweet. I'm not so sure that we're quite there yet with gayness. A lot of the language we use is still very new, and perhaps that language is just taking a bit of getting used to before it starts smelling sweet.

Good luck to the pair of them in their newfound openness.



**TWO STARS OF DAYTIME TV CAME OUT AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME
— BUT SEEMED TO GET VERY DIFFERENT REACTIONS**





The unique place to hold your LGBTQ+ wedding



Give us a call or message us today and let's chat!

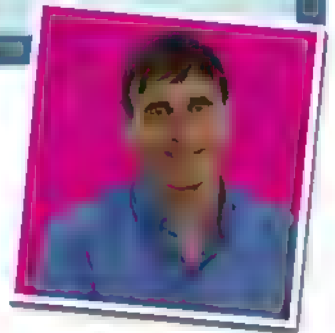
THE BUTTERMARKET
SHREWSBURY

Howard Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 2LF Tel: 01743 281751 Email: grant@thebuttermarket.co.uk
www.TheButtermarket.co.uk

Conversation STOPPER

ON THE
BALL

with
Steve Ball



Are you monogamous or in a consensual open relationship?
Steve Ball contemplates a conversation-stopper of a question...

I was at a party a few weeks ago when someone piped up, "So who here is in an open relationship?" An awkward silence fell upon the room. Eyebrows were raised but no one answered the question.

Even though most of the male gay couples I know are not monogamous, very few talk openly about it, even with their friends. This may be because although gay men have always engaged more often in consensual open relationships, society at large has consistently stigmatised them.

There are of course 50 shades of open relationships, ranging from an occasional drunken threesome on holiday to each partner having a regular playmate who provides emotional as well as sexual support. A 2005 study found that more than 40% of gay men had an agreement that sex outside the relationship was permissible, while less than five percent of heterosexual and lesbian couples reported the same.

There's been lots of research on the subject. One study by Quartz, a Berlin research group, surveyed 11,000 people from all over Europe and found that monogamous and married couples are significantly happier with their sex lives



**"LOVE IS
ABOUT SO
MUCH MORE
THAN SEX"**

than those in open or polyamorous relationships. Eighty-two percent of people in monogamous relationships said they were satisfied with their sex lives, while only 71 percent of people in open relationships felt the same.

But when it comes to having a happy and fulfilling relationship, sex isn't always everything. Researchers from the University of Michigan found that people in open relationships were generally much less jealous and significantly more trusting than their monogamous counterparts. This is maybe as a result of couples in open relationships having to negotiate specific rules and boundaries, resulting in better communication amongst non-monogamous couples than monogamous ones.

At the end of the day, we need to separate love and sex. They may be intertwined, but they aren't the same thing. Love is about so much more than sex. It's about mutual care, respect, intimacy and friendship.

All relationships are different, but one thing is clear. Whether monogamous or open, honesty with our partners is probably the best policy.

MGM
BIRMINGHAM MATURE GAY MEN

MEETING AT 8pm
1st FLOOR OF THE FOX



MGM - Midlands.org.uk
mgmbham@gmail.com
Call Tom for details - 07899 335677

The Fox, Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN

SPARTAN
MALE HEALTH CLUB & SAUNA

FACILITIES:

- SAUNA • GYM • FAST TAN CLUB
- CAFE • RELAXATION AREA
- REST ROOMS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- FREE WIFI

Opening Times:
Mon - Fri: 11am - 10pm
Sat: 11am - 6:30pm
Sun: Noon - 8:30pm

Prices:
12 noon - 6pm: £10.00
After 6pm: £8.00
(Savers Card & Student Discount Available)

127 George Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
Tel: 0121 382 3345

www.spartanhealthclub.co.uk

ONLY 2 MINUTES FROM THE JUNCTION 6 (SPASSETT), JUST 5 MINUTES FROM BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

"WEAR THICK PANTS
BECAUSE YOU LL
WET YOURSELF
LAUGHING"

JENNIFER SAUNDERS



LaVoix

The UK's Funniest Red Head
2020 TOUR

Friday 6 March
Assembly Rooms - Tamworth
01827 709618

Friday 13 March
Festival Drayton Centre -
Market Drayton
01630 654444

Friday 27 March
Huntingdon Hall - Worcester
01905 611 427

Saturday 30 May
The Old Rep - Birmingham
0121 359 9444

"DEMONSTRATES A
MASTERCLASS IN
COMIC TIMING"
THE TIMES

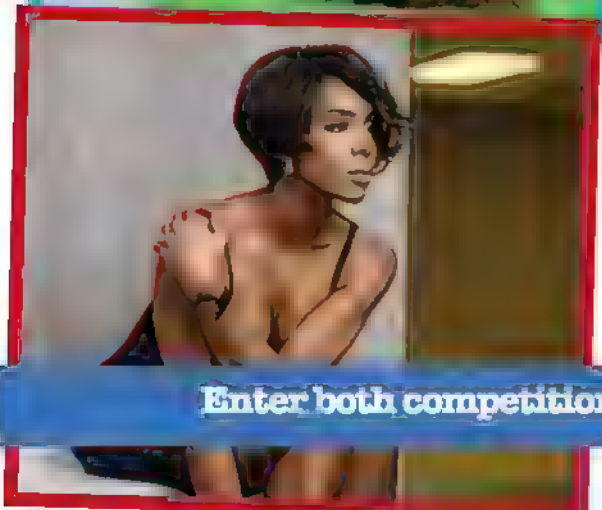
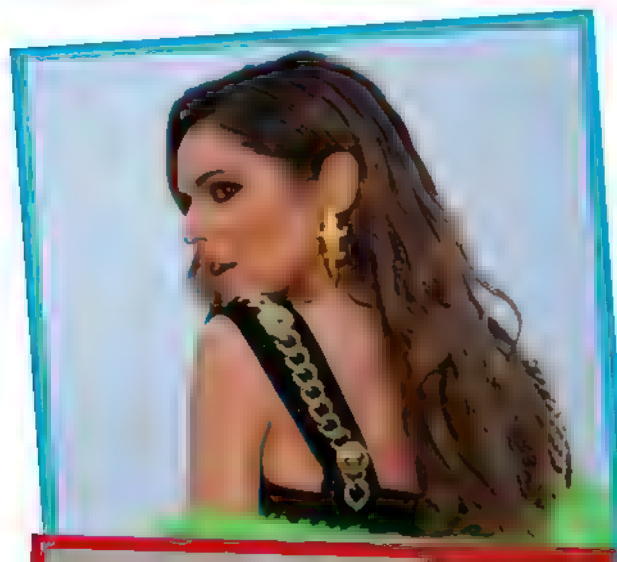
WIN!

with Midlands Zone...

2 tickets to see **PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT**

We all love an evening with Priscilla, don't we? Full of feathers and pom poms, and featuring dance-floor hits Hot Stuff, I Will Survive, I Love The Nightlife and the iconic It's Raining Men, what's not to love...

The current touring production - starring Strictly winner Joe McFadden - pulls into the Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 April. We have a pair of tickets to the 7.30pm performance on Tuesday 14 April to give away to our lucky winners.



2 weekend VIP tickets to **BIRMINGHAM PRIDE**

How would you like to see former Girls Aloud star and TV celebrity Cheryl perform live on the main stage at this year's Birmingham Pride?...

Cheryl takes top billing on the Saturday evening of the UK's biggest two-day Pride event. The festival also features a performance by former Destiny's Child band member Kelly Rowland, headlining the main stage on the Sunday.

This year's impressive Pride line-up also features '70s/'80s soul legends Sister Sledge, '90s pop stars The Vengaboys, and RuPaul's Drag Race finalist Peppermint.

Fancy getting up-close & personal with Cheryl and Kelly? Midlands Zone has a pair of VIP tickets to Birmingham Pride to give away - including a possible meet & greet with both headliners (depending on allocated time slots so it's not guaranteed!). Birmingham Pride takes place in and around Birmingham's Gay Village on Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 May

**Includes
MEET &
GREET**

Enter both competitions at midlandszone.co.uk



**BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**



Audio Described
Performance



Hearing Interpreted
Performance



Captioned
Performance



Relaxed
Performance

See website
for details.

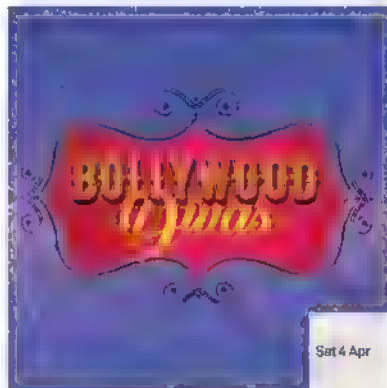
0844 338 5000* birminghamhippodrome.com

*Calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge

THE BOOK OF MORMON



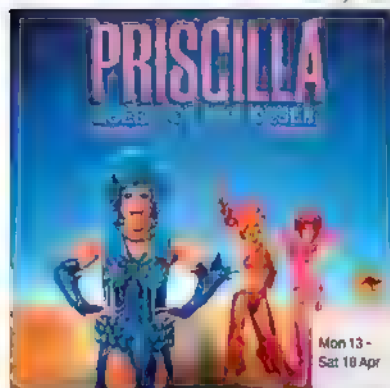
Wed 4 -
Sat 28 Mar



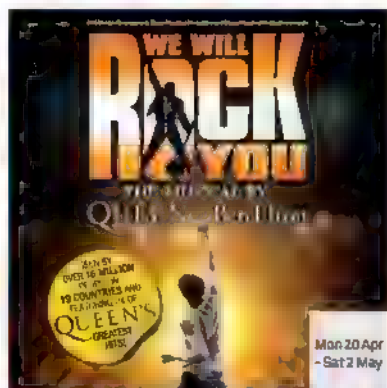
Sat 4 Apr



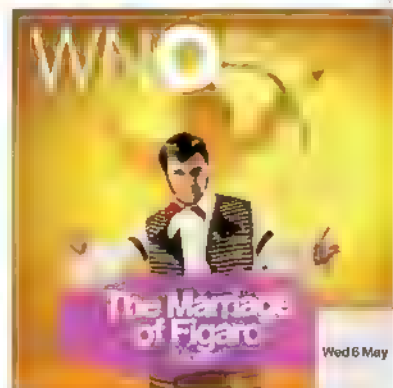
Wed 5 &
Thu 9 Apr



Mon 13 -
Sat 18 Apr



Mon 20 Apr
- Sat 2 May



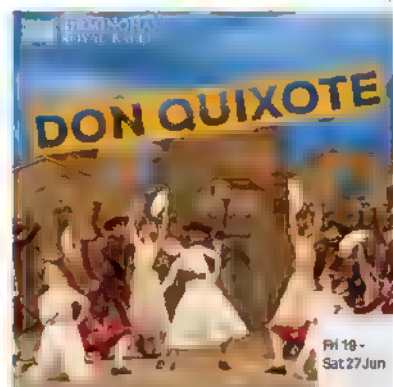
Wed 6 May



Tue 12 -
Sat 30 May



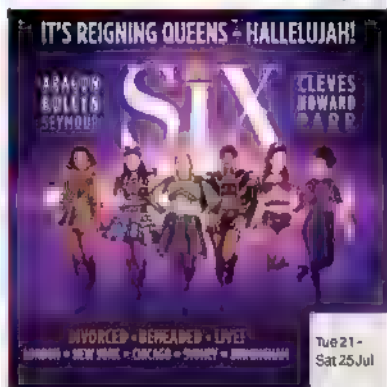
Tue 2 -
Sat 6 Jun



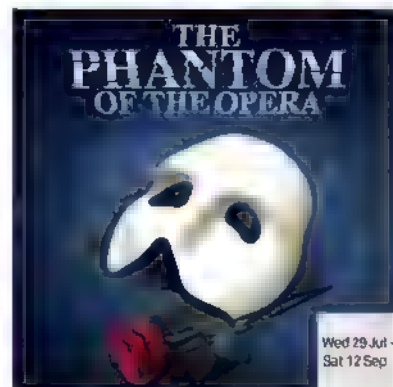
Fri 19 -
Sat 27 Jun



Tue 30 Jun
Sat 18 Jul



Tue 21 -
Sat 25 Jul



Wed 29 Jul -
Sat 12 Sep

Queens on the road... PRISCILLA IN BRUM!

Midlands Zone chats to former Strictly winner Joe McFadden as he swaps the ballroom for the beaten track in Priscilla Queen Of The Desert – which stops off in Birmingham's Gay Village next month!



Smash-hit musical *Priscilla Queen Of The Desert* is back on the road and stopping off at Birmingham Hippodrome next month.

We caught up with *Strictly Come Dancing* winner Joe McFadden, as he takes on the role of Tick in this latest production...

Were you a fan of the original movie of *Priscilla*, Joe?

I really loved it. I think it's something everyone has an awareness of. I actually saw the production at the Palace in London years ago. It's such a vibrant show. I remember being blown away by it, and especially by how great the music was.

Why do you think the story has become such a cult classic?

There are loads of things that really work; so many fantastic songs in there, as well as it being a great story. It was way ahead of its time. I think it's one of the first pieces of drama that was centred around a trans person, and which was also discussing things like gay parenting. It's completely timeless as well as being super-entertaining and joyous. It has all the best elements of a great musical.

For anyone who hasn't seen it before, what can audiences expect from the show?

It starts with my character, Tick. He's working in Sydney in a drag bar, enjoying his life, when he gets a call from his past. We find out he has a wife, who asks him to come and do a show at Alice Springs and spend some time with his son, who he hasn't had much contact with. He decides to rope in a couple of his pals and travel across Australia in a big bus. His friends think they're just going to do the show and have no idea why they're really going, or even that he has a child! The relationship between the three friends really drives the story, as they find out he has this whole other life they had no idea about. They get themselves into some quite dangerous situations as they travel across the Outback and meet some interesting characters. And they all have big decisions to make about being themselves or conforming.

How will the road-trip element of the show work on stage?

We're doing some really big venues and then some which are tiny, so it's going to be really inventive. That's what's so exciting, because it's a brand new

production, it's a whole new design. I think it's going to be really interesting, and different perhaps from the show that people might have seen before.

The conversation about drag queen culture and trans identities has moved on slightly since the film was released. Do you think the show will seem different because of that?

You know, that's the thing with these issues, they're still around and they're still having to be dealt with. Sadly, we don't live in a world where people aren't still fighting these battles, so that sort of makes it still timely and still relevant. People are slightly more used to seeing things like drag, but a lot of the serious issues are still around sadly.

What's it like having Jason Donovan as your producer?

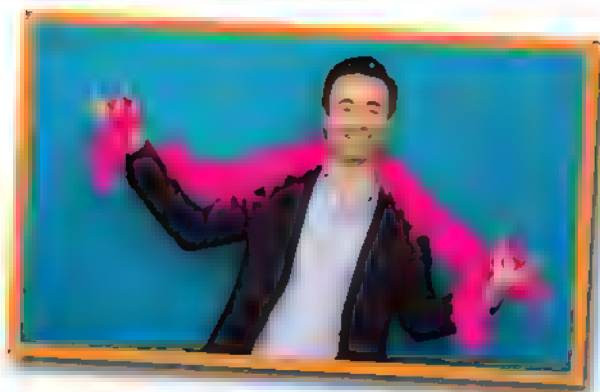
He's so knowledgeable about the show. He's played it in the West End and on tour, and just having his input is brilliant. I'm hugely in debt to him in terms of my landing the part because he really championed me. To have his seal of approval really means a lot. He's been nothing but complimentary and encouraging. It's been fantastic.

Will you be getting tips from him about how he approached it?

I absolutely will be! He said that being on stage and playing the character is the fun bit; it's when you come off stage and you have these huge, really fast costume changes to do that it can get tricky. Also, looking after your back in the huge heels. He advised me to get used to walking in the heels - even wearing them in the photo-shoot was tricky!

Do you have any previous experience of wearing heels?

Absolutely none whatsoever! I've walked around inside to get used to them. I was a little bit like Bambi to start with, but I'm slowly getting better. It's difficult, though. I don't know how anyone could do it all day!



Are you looking forward to that side of it?

I really enjoy when you put on a costume and it takes you far away from who you really are. I think it's quite freeing as an actor to be completely different, and it really helps you get into character. You get a chance to be someone else, trying to see the world from somebody else's perspective.

What do you think of your costumes?

We do have some quite special outfits to wear; they're really colourful and really sparkly. But having done *Strictly* a couple of years ago, all of that stuff isn't alien to me anymore, so I'm really looking forward to getting into the costumes.

Do you think *Strictly* helped in landing this part?

It's certainly helped me get my head around doing it. I've been waiting for the chance to use the bit of dance training that I did. I really wanted to get to use it at some point, but it absolutely had to be with the right thing, and when this came along it felt like a perfect fit.

Strictly must be good training for a musical - having to learn all those routines very quickly...

Absolutely. We only have three weeks to put on the show, so I'm imagining it will be quite similar - learning routines in a very short space of time. I'm slightly nervous, but nerves are good!

Priscilla is known for its fun soundtrack. Are you a fan of busting out some moves to the old disco classics?

Definitely! There are such great songs in the show, and so many that you can't help but tap your toes to and be moved by. And that's the thing I remember most about seeing the musical. I remember I was so worried about seeing it because I'd enjoyed the film so much, but it really works because of those fantastic songs. We've actually got some new ones in there this time that I'm sure people will go mad for.

Are there any numbers that you're particularly looking forward to?

I really love McArthur Park. And Always On My Mind, which is the song that Tick sings to his son - that really sticks in my mind from the West End show. I also love We Belong; the three main characters do it together, and it really unifies them and reinforces their friendship.

How's your Australian accent coming along?

I'm hoping it's going to be as easy doing Australian as doing American, which I've done before. I grew up watching Neighbours and Home And Away, and I recently started putting them on again in the afternoon, just to get my ear in the accent. I'm slowly getting sucked back into it, so I feel like I'm regressing back to my teens watching Kylie and Jason! That's going to be my new life, watching loads of Australian TV shows every day!

Do you ever get stage fright?

There are always nerves, and I think there should be - especially in the beginning - because it just shows that you care and you want the show to be as good as it can possibly be. Doing something like Strictly taught me that you can be nervous, but that you can use those nerves and channel them into your performance

How does working in theatre compare to filming or doing TV?

It's difficult to compare because doing something like Holby City, which I'd been in for four years, you get to know the character really well. That's really lovely, but it was also one of my reasons for wanting to change things a bit. As an actor you shouldn't allow yourself to get stale and play the same part for too long. I want to act and play loads of different roles, and I feel so fortunate that I get to

do television, musicals, plays and things like Strictly. Things couldn't be going much better

And how do you find touring and life on the road?

It obviously has its hard times as you're away from home, but I've really enjoyed seeing the country, going out and exploring each new place. It's really interesting doing a show on tour because it keeps changing, depending on the personality of the audience. They bring out really different energy levels. Even the theatre building itself sometimes completely changes the play. It keeps you on your toes, which I enjoy

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert The Musical shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 April.



How well do you know PRISCILLA?

1. Which year did the film The Adventures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert come out?

- A: 1987
- B: 1994
- C: 2005

2. Which Australian wrote and directed the film?

- A: Guy Pearce
- B: Terence Stamp
- C: Stephan Elliott

3. Priscilla is the name of...

- A: The bus
- B: A drag queen
- C: Tick's mother

4. Which famous Australian actor and singer plays Tick in the West End, and is now the producer of the musical?

- A: Jason Donovan
- B: Hugh Jackman
- C: Chris Hemsworth

5. What colour is Priscilla?

- A: Pink
- B: Green
- C: Blue

6. Which member of the group is hiding his marriage and son from the other two?

- A: Bernadette
- B: Tick
- C: Adam

What's On

Art - Theatre - Entertainment



Everybody's Talking About Jamie

Jamie New is 16, lives on a council estate in Sheffield, doesn't quite fit in and is terrified about the future. He is also going to be a sensation! Supported by his brilliant, loving mother and surrounded by friends, he overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness and into the spotlight.

This smash-hit touring musical features Layton Williams in the title role and EastEnders' Shane Richie as Hugo/Loco Chanelle. Both are reprising their roles from the critically acclaimed West End production.

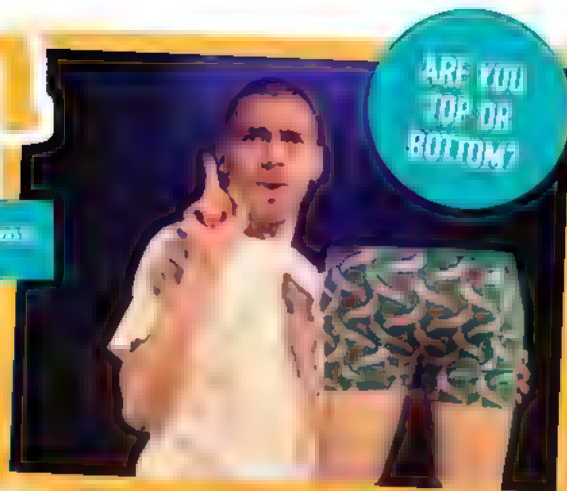
The Alexandra, Birmingham, Mon 16 - Sat 21 March;
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 23 - Sat 27 June;
and Leicester Curve Mon 29 June - Sat 4 July

BGSO Spring Concert

Leave reality behind and travel into the underworld with Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. BGSO are joined for their spring concert by conductor Jack Lovell and a special-guest mezzo-soprano

The programme includes works by Antonin Dvořák, Sir Edward Elgar and Carl Maria von Weber

St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Birmingham,
Sat 28 March



Bottom

Locked in his bathroom during a tragic third date, Willy Hudson asks: are you a top or a bottom?

Following a sell-out Edinburgh Fringe run, Bottom is about bums, Beyoncé and burnt fish fingers. Join Willy for a queer coming of-age remix, as he questions if 'bottom' in the bedroom means 'bottom' in life - and whether Beyoncé can help put his love on top.

With a cracking soundtrack, Willy's funny, honest and open-hearted storytelling yanks the lid off the queer experience, as he not only faces up to performance anxiety but also struggles with the realities of being overworked, underpaid and under-respected.

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham,
Thurs 26 - Sat 28 March



Queer Lady M

Performed by gender-fluid artist Shane Gabriel, Lady Macbeth comes to life like you've never experienced her before.

Expect outrageous lip-syncing, cheeky dancing and sassy conversation as Queer Lady M invites you to enter her world of passion and shade. But what happens when the show is over, when Shane removes the makeup and puts Lady M to bed? What stories will come to light as we're invited into Shane's twilight world?

A funny and moving exploration of a unique relationship between a fierce drag queen and her anxious alter-ego, Queer Lady M is a lively and intelligent celebration of queerness

Friday 20 March, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

CineQ Film Festival

A four-day festival showcasing the best in queer film - with a focus on stories for and by QTPOC - CineQ returns to Birmingham late this month.

Festival highlights include a filmmaker matchmaker event with BFI NETWORK, a CineQ After Dark party with a whole host of queer talent, and a specially commissioned dining experience. CineQxGU Tongues United.

For full listings, head to cineqbirmingham.co.uk

**Across various venues in Birmingham,
Thurs 26 - Sun 29 March**

Stephen Bailey

Comedian Stephen Bailey brings brand new show Can't Be Bothered to the region this month.

At a time when everybody is expected to have an opinion about everything, Stephen just can't be bothered. But by being complacent, does that make him complicit? Can't Be Bothered comprises a bit of storytelling, some inappropriate anecdotes and, on Stephen's own admission, more sincerity than he's ever dared to display before!

Leamington Spa Pavilion, Fri 6 March; Just The Tonic comedy night at Rosie's Nightclub, Birmingham, Fri 27 March



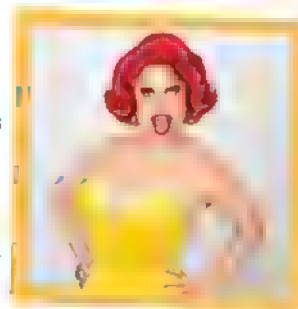
La Voix

Global superstar La Voix is bringing her most glamorous show yet to the Midlands.

Expect 'side-splitting comedy, huge vocals, mesmerising impressions of the world's biggest divas and bucketfuls of energy' when the Britain's Got Talent and RuPaul's Drag Race star stops off in the region this month and beyond.

And big fan Jennifer Saunders has some sound advice for any first-time attendees at a La Voix show: "Wear thick pants," urges the Ab Fab star, "because you'll wet yourself laughing."

Nottingham Arts Theatre, Sat 7 March; Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Fri 13 March; Huntingdon Hall, Worcester, Fri 27 March; The Old Rep, Birmingham, Sat 30 May



YAAAASSS QUEENS - well, six to be precise... Critically acclaimed West End musical SIX is this month heading to the Midlands for the very first time. From Tudor queens to pop princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into a 75-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power. These Queens may have green sleeves but their lipstick is rebellious red...

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Tues 10 - Sat 14 March; Nottingham Theatre Royal, Tues 24 - Sun 29 March; Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Tues 8 - Sun 7 June; Leicester Curve Theatre, Tues 9 - Sun 14 June; and Birmingham Hippodrome, Tues 21 - Sat 25 July

A Gay and A NonGay

The UK's number-one LGBTQ+ podcast is out on tour and stopping off in Birmingham this month. The show is hosted by James Barr and Dan Hudson (James is Gay, Dan is NonGay), who formed a friendship when Dan's girlfriend introduced him to her pal, James - since which time the two fellas have been chatting away merrily about all manner of stuff and nonsense, from candid sex talk to discussing the best ways to save on the cost of eggs.

Plus Birmingham's very own Yshee Black will appear as a special guest.

Glee Club, Birmingham, Tues 24 March



TRANSGENDER

Brand new LGBTQ+ production makes its debut in **BIRMINGHAM**

A brand new LGBTQ+ production, exploring what a teenage rent boy in Havana is willing to give up to be loved and accepted, makes its debut in Birmingham's Gay Village this month.

Set against the turbulence of post-revolution Cuba - a world of neon lights, vibrant tropicana, jazz, drugs and economic uncertainty - DeNada Dance's new production, *Mariposa*, is a transgender tragedy brimming with magical realism and drama.

The show follows the title character as he grapples with a massive question - should he sacrifice his gender in exchange for a better life with Preston, the foreign sailor he loves?

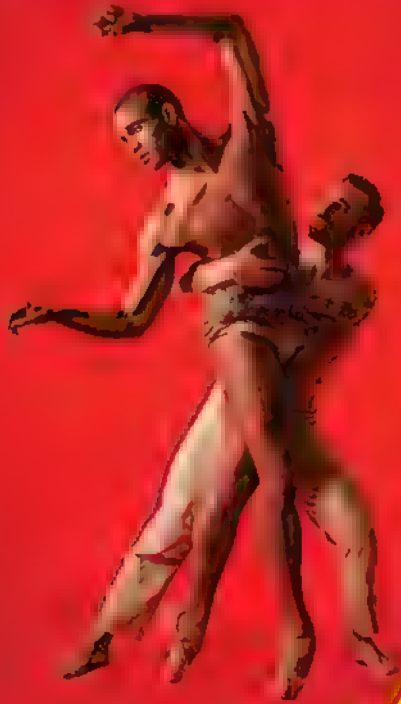
Mariposa's free expression of sexual desire allows Preston to break free, temporarily, from the heteronormativity that defines his life. Although he repeatedly tells the teenage boy his heart will only belong to a woman, Determined to marry the man he loves, Mariposa visits a nearby orisha shrine - part of Cuba's voodoo-like religion - and sacrifices his masculinity and becomes a transwoman. But will Preston's love prove steadfast?

'*Mariposa* is all about representing ethnically diverse LGBTQ+ narratives on stage,' says the director, DeNada Dance Theatre's Jerro Pons Guerra - one of contemporary ballet's most highly rated emerging queer voices. 'It's fantastic that it's opening its wings in a city as diverse and multicultural as Birmingham. We really hope audiences from across the Midlands and further afield will be touched by this very special show - a dance version of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, one of the most iconic operas ever written.'

DeNada Dance Theatre's *Mariposa* shows at the Patrick Studio, Birmingham Hippodrome, in Birmingham's Gay Village, on Friday 27 & Saturday 28 March.



TRAGEDY



TEENAGE
RENT BOY
IN HAVANA





The financial crash takes its toll on a number of Midlands Gay Venues



Garry and Cal from Eden announced plans to launch a new nightclub which ended up being The Core. The venue closed down in December 2019 and is due for complete demolition in 2020!



We can't quite believe that Zone was still featuring dating ads back in March 2010 how things have moved on!



Meanwhile, Garry and Cal get set to celebrate Eden's 2nd birthday with Liberty X star Kevin Simms and Angie Brown



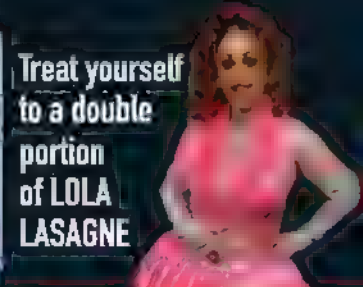
NEW DRAG
COMPETITION
hosted by
The Saturnos
at THE YARD



MISS
PENNY
heads to
Brum



Dudley's
Bar Diva
welcomes
CHARLIE
HIDES



Treat yourself
to a double
portion
of LOLA
LASAGNE

SCENE

Your guide to the
month ahead on
the GAY SCENE

MARCH 2020



FRIDAY 6 MARCH

THE

VIVIENNE

live in Birmingham

What's On



**Trisha
Birmingham**

**Fri 15 March,
The Yard
Coventry**

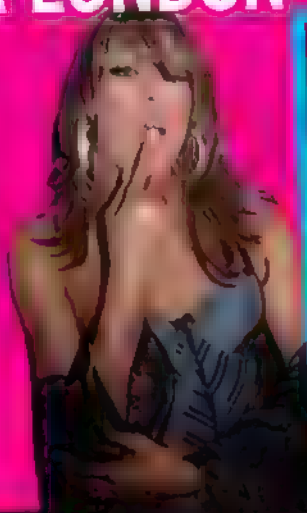
AROUND THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE

SANDRA LONDON

The West End's **Harps** and **London** scene is getting around! This month sees the fully queer pop duo up at both **Havana Republic** and **The Village Inn**. If you're feeling naughty, be sure to chat up with her at the club in the venues.

**Monday 3 March:
Havana Republic
Shrewsbury**

**Friday 27 March:
The Village Inn,
Birmingham**



BIG YARD POOL PARTY with DJ Paul Morrell



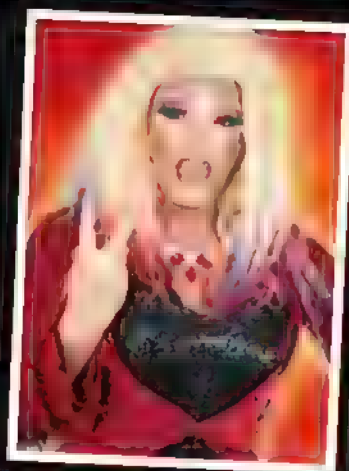
It's time to get wet & wild with DJ Paul Morrell, as The Yard hosts its first ever pool party! Enjoy a splash at Coventry's The Wave waterpark (just across from The Yard, then head on down to The Yard for the after-party!

Thurs 5 March, The Yard, Coventry

BLANCHE

This Brum-based queen will be venturing to Coventry to bring lots of laughs and plenty of fun to The Yard stage!

**Friday 6 March, The Yard,
Coventry**

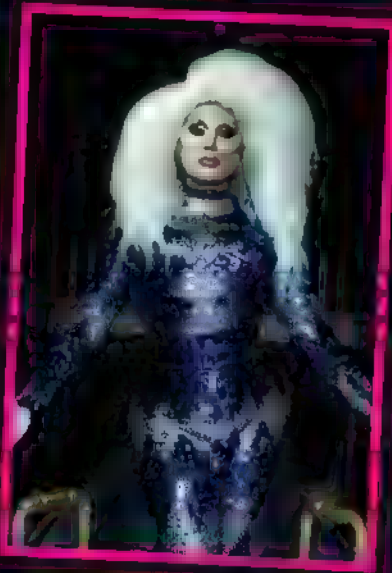


The Vivienne

Her majesty The Vivienne - the reigning queen of RuPaul's Drag Race UK - will be gracing The Village Inn with her royal presence this month.

This **Scouse** star is sure to bring the house down with lots of laughs and maybe a song or two.

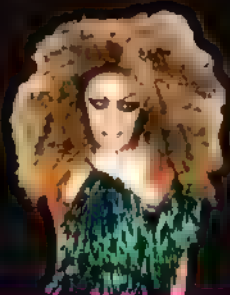
**Friday 6 March,
The Village Inn,
Birmingham**



Dragged Through The Yard

Brought to you by The Yard's very own The Saturns, **Dragged Through The Yard** is the Midlands' hottest new drag competition. Drag artists from all over the UK will be battling it out with live performances to stake their place in the grand final.

**Heats each week, Fri 6, 13, 20,
with the grand final on Fri 27
March, The Yard, Coventry**



Miss Marty

Sat 14 March
Bar Diva
Dudley



Past, Present, Future with Simon Baker

Fri 20 March
Eden Bar, Birmingham



Brenda LaBeau

Mon 16 March
Havana Republic
Shrewsbury



DANNY BEARD

Award-winning cabaret artist, Danny Beard brings his sparkly self to Eden this month. Expect extra campness and some stunning vocals from the Liverpool-born star.

Sat 7 March, Eden Bar, Birmingham



Ceri Dupree

The UK's number-one female impersonator, Ceri Dupree has spent the last 30 years in the biz. From stage to screen, there isn't an audience he hasn't played to! Eden Bar patrons should brace themselves for a top-quality evening awash with stand-up comedy, jaw-dropping costumes, wigs & props, parodies, songs and impersonations.

Thurs 12 March, Eden Bar, Birmingham

GLAMOROUS' 2ND BIRTHDAY

+ £1000 Balloon drop!

Glamorous' Coventry venue turns two this month - and to celebrate, it's hosting DJs Jelly Cube and Royston across two floors. There's also a chance for you to win some glorious cash, courtesy of a £1,000 balloon-drop giveaway!

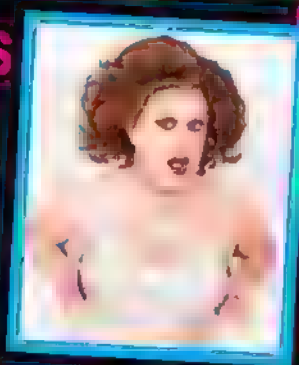
Sat 7 March, Glamorous, Coventry



Fanny Burns

It's time to stock up on the Canesten, Northampton, as you'll be getting a whole load of Fanny Burns this month! This quick-witted queen is live on stage for one night only!

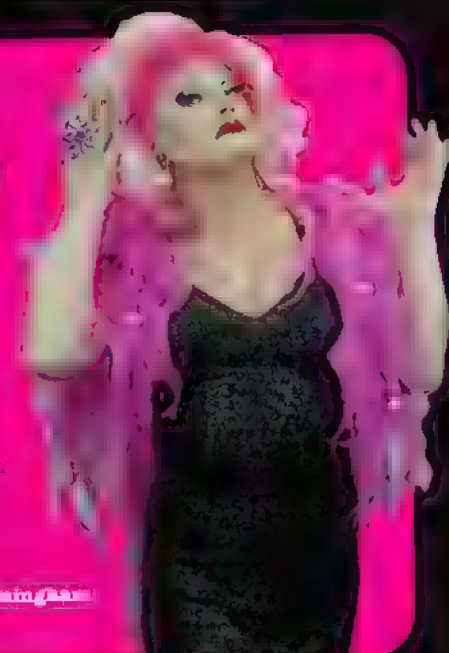
Sat 7 March, The Boston, Northampton



MISS PENNY

When she's not busy acting a blegg, SA Sake Pn of six Miss Penny likes to entertain the Midlands gay scene. This month she'll be taking The Village Inn at 11.00 AM hoping to get her hands on a tasty party of two.

Friday 19 March,
The Village Inn, Birmingham



BATTLE OF THE DRAGS

Are you ready to rumble? Dragpunk Presents is kicking off its monthly Saturday shows at Eden Bar with a Battle Royale between some of the UK's favourite drag houses. Expect theatre, visuals, drama and plenty of twists'n'turns!

Sat 7 March, Eden Bar, Birmingham

What's On



Wilma Fingadoo

Sat 28 March,
The Boston,
Northampton



Birmingham Fetish Weekend

Are you a fetish kinda guy? If so, then this month's Birmingham Fetish Weekend is for you!

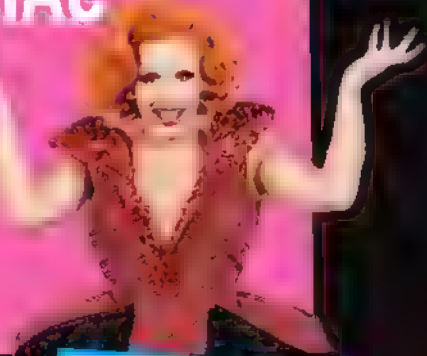
The event includes the annual Mr Leather UK finals, which are being held in the city for the very first time. Check out our feature on it - see page 10 and 11!

13-15 March, taking place at several Birmingham venues, including Eden Bar, The Loft, The Fountain, The Nightingale Club and Boltz

MARY MAC

Expect hit songs and plenty of banter as the Tartan wrapped Scottish drag queen returns to Eden!

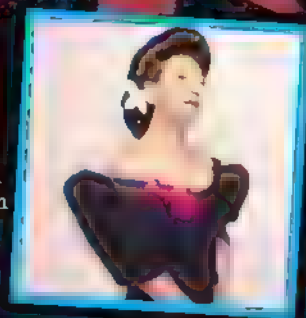
Fri 13 March, 8pm
Eden Bar, Birmingham



Lady Imelda

Lady Imelda makes a rare appearance in the Midlands. With her rich musical-theatre background, you can expect one hell of a show!

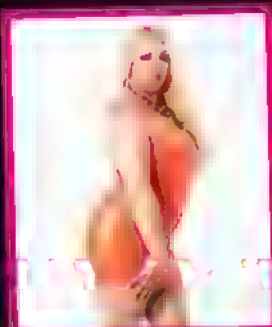
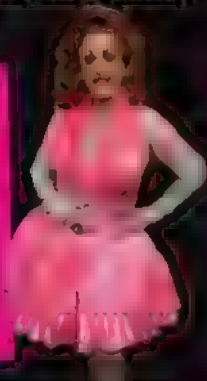
Fri 30 March, The Yard, Coventry



LOLA LASAGNE

Back in a club after performing at Lola Lasagne this month as she performs in Northampton and Coventry.

Sat 14 March, The Boston, Northampton; Fri 27 March, The Yard, Coventry



Sum Ting Wong

After her fabulous RuPaul's Drag Race UK appearance, this Brummie babe makes a hometown return at The Village Inn.

Fri 20 March, The Village Inn, Birmingham

OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:

Sun 1 Mar

Dare2Bare Boltz, Birmingham

Wed 4 Mar

Men's Night The Crown Inn, Derby

Sun 8 Mar

Ginaden Eden Bar, Birmingham

Big Fish Little Fish X Camp Festival Family Rave The Nightingale Club, Birmingham

Fri 13 Mar

**Bonny Basslines Club Chic, Birmingham
Sharon Weedles Propaganda, Nottingham**

Sat 14 Mar

Tilly The Red Lion, Walsall

Fri 20 Mar

**MidsBears Eden Bar, Birmingham
XXL Birmingham Tunnal Club, Birmingham
Bulls Deep Fundraiser with DJ Poni Eden Bar, Birmingham**

The Friends Of Dorothy Show Bar Diva, Dudley

The Steering Wheel Club Club Chic, Birmingham

Sun 22 Mar

Leather Social Eden Bar, Birmingham

Fri 27 Mar

Birmingham Bear's Bash Eden Bar, Birmingham



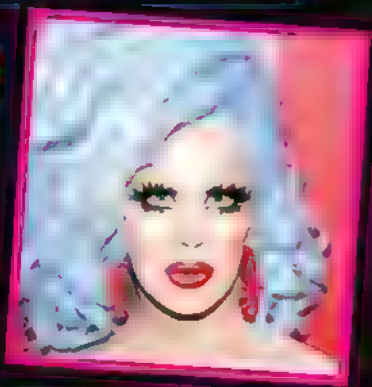
Bella End

Fri 20 March
The Boston,
Northampton

Charlie Hides

The Transatlantic Dame visits Dudley at the end of the month. Known for her uncanny comic impersonations of dozens of A-List celebrities, she's sure to have you gasping for breath - in a good way!

Saturday 28 March, Bar Diva, Dudley



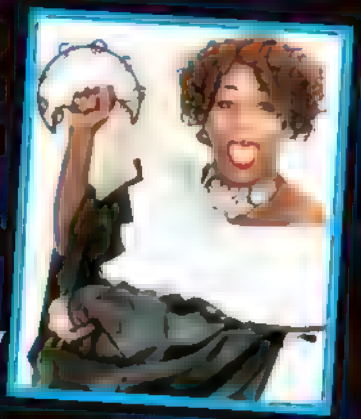
Church of Yshee

NEW SEASON STARTS THIS MONTH!

The Church of Yshee opens its doors again this month as its Sunday service makes a welcome return!

Giving a platform to local emerging drag-scene talent, it's a great opportunity to check out some brilliant acts before they're discovered!

New season. Every Sunday, starting Sunday 1 March, The Village Inn, Birmingham



Sat 28 Mar

Club Scratches Eden Bar, Birmingham

Eden Birthday Party

Eden Bar, Birmingham

Dr Beverly Ballcrusher

The Red Lion, Walsall

The Breakfast Club presents

Hayley May, Joel

Gorry's "Sorry" Club

Chic, Birmingham

Mexican Wave! Gossip, Stoke-on-Trent

Sat 29 Mar

Gameden Eden Bar,

Birmingham

Ripper's Birthday

Burlesque Boudoir

Gossip, Stoke-on-Trent

SAT 4TH APR

The Loft

DRAG BRUNCH

HOSTED BY

YSHEE BLACK

WITH
TACKY

AND

BLACK PEPPA



E30 EST 2010 // INCLUDES SHOW,
BRUNCH + BOTTOMLESS PROSECCO

BOOKINGS ONLY: enquiries@theloftbrum.co.uk

[f @LOFTBIRMINGHAM](#) [@THELOFTBRUM](#) [@THELOFTBRUM](#)

GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

Birmingham

EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

EVERY MONDAY 8PM
Quizzical with DJ Yogi



EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY
Karaoke & Disco with DJ Nikki

EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Toni Lee & DJ Poni
alternate weeks

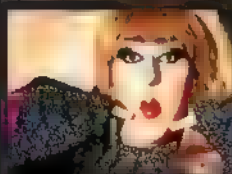


GLAMOROUS BIRMINGHAM

27-35 Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 5912
glamorousbirmingham.co.uk
/GlamorousBirmingham

EVERY MONDAY
Weekend afterparty with DJ Mike Emery

EVERY TUESDAY
Tempted? Tuesdays with Pam Catz



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Midweek Wednesdays DJ Mike Emery

EVERY THURSDAY
Thirsty Thursdays with DJ Mike Emery

EVERY FRIDAY
Fabulous Fridays with Pam Catz open until 6am

EVERY SATURDAY
Sparkle Pop Saturdays with Pam Catz

THE LOFT

12 Bromsgrove St, B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
Queeny's Quiz

EVERY MONDAY
Monday Cocktail Club
2 for £10

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wing it Wednesday
Kilo of wings and drink £10

MISSING BAR

Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

EVERY MONDAY UNTIL 4AM
Ministry of Pound

EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke with Gavina Vagina

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Miss M's Midweek Madness

EVERY THURSDAY 9PM
Thursdays with DJ Gavina
£1.50 bombs



The Loft, Birmingham

EVERY FRIDAY 9PM
Hit Man and Her with DJ Mike Emery & Gavina Vagina

EVERY SATURDAY
Missing's House Party with DJ Matty, DJ Mike Emery and host Twiggy

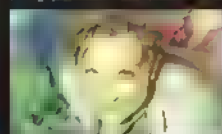
EVERY SUNDAY 8.30pm & 10.30pm
Camp as t's with Amy LaQueela and guest cabaret

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

EVERY THURSDAY
Pounded! with £1 drinks

EVERY FRIDAY
Absolute Anthems with DJs Corey Hadley and Scott Hilton



EVERY SATURDAY
Nightingale Saturdays with free entry until 12pm

THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinbirmingham

EVERY MONDAY 9PM
Queeny's Bingo and L&R

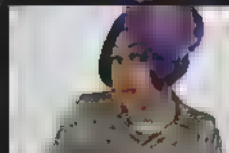
Mondays open until 4am

EVERY TUESDAY
Play Your Cards Right with Blanche

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Karaoke with Pork Pie

EVERY THURSDAY
Thirsty Thursdays with Miss Marty

EVERY SUNDAY
The Church of Yshee



PLUS THESE VENUES
BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 622 1111

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

DEVIL'S KITCHEN
Kent St, B5 6NB

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QJ
Tel: 0121 622 1111

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN
Tel: 0121 622 3213

**SAUNAS IN THE AREA
SPARTAN HEALTH CLUB**
127 George Road, B23 7SH
Tel: 0121 382 3345

UNIT 2
78 Lower Essex St, B5 6SN
Tel: 0121 622 7070

Birmingham venues where you can pick up Midlands Zone



COVENTRY

GLAMOROUS COVENTRY

88 Short St, CV1 2LX
glamorouscoventry.co.uk
/GlamorousCoventry

EVERY TUESDAY
Kamikaze karaoke Tuesdays
with Jelly Cube



EVERY WEDNESDAY
After Drk with the biggest
House and R'n'B hits

EVERY THURSDAY
KaPownd Thursdays with £1
drinks all night

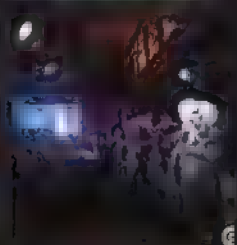
EVERY FRIDAY
Thank God It's Friday! with
Richard Alexander

EVERY SATURDAY
Haus of Cube Saturdays

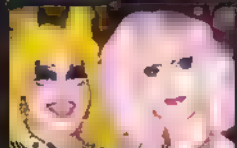
EVERY SUNDAY
Andy's Sunday Funday with
fun and games

THE YARD

11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH
Tel: 02475 012 959
theyardcoventry.co.uk
/TheYardCoventry



EVERY TUESDAY
Quiz of random things with
The Saturnos



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Live music with Tim Barnard
& Jade Justine

EVERY THURSDAY
Free Shot Karaoke

EVERY FRIDAY
Dirty Disco 80's Night and
cabaret

EVERY SATURDAY
Identity with DJ Simon Baker

EVERY SUNDAY
Blago W 80's

DUDLEY

BAR DIVA

76 Lower Plaza Mall, King
Street, DY2 8NZ
/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

EVERY MONDAY
Mish Mash Monday with Miss
Annie



EVERY THURSDAY
The Price Is Right with Miss
Annie

EVERY FRIDAY
Freaky Fridays with DJ Mikey

EVERY SATURDAY
Cabaret Saturdays with Miss
Annie

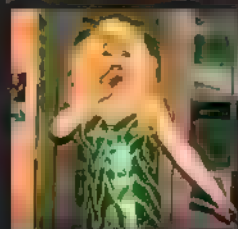
EVERY SUNDAY
Sunday Social with Miss
Marty and Miss Annie

SHREWSBURY

HAVANA REPUBLIC

18-21 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
havanarepublic.co.uk
/HavanaRepublic

EVERY MONDAY
Fabulous Mondays with Miss
Penny and guest cabaret
every 1st and 3rd Monday



THE PEACH TREE

18-21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

STOURBRIDGE

GOSSIP
5 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 01292 222222
PINK
93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

SAUNAS IN THE AREA
HEROES HEALTH CLUB
5 Lower High St, DY8 1TE
Tel: 0138 444 2030

Telford

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley
TF7 4JB, 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Birchills St, WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 610977

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

GREENHOUSE

Willenhall Road, WS10 8JG
Tel: 0121 568 6126

WOLVERHAMPTON

GORGEOUS

School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar

EVERY THURSDAY 1AM-6AM

Balsed Up! Thursdays

EVERY FRIDAY 12AM-6AM

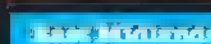
Fab Fridays

EVERY SATURDAY 12AM-6AM

The Breakfast Club

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780220



DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St, DE1 1L
Tel: 01332 344444

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

AMIGOS LEISURE
30 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 251 1955

CLUB 29
29 New Bond St, LE1 4RO
Tel: 0116 262 7770

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
61 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR
Tel: 0116 367 3932

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON

College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404
/thebostonnorthampton



EVERY FRIDAY
Pink Pounder with £1 drinks
feat. DJ Darren S

EVERY SATURDAY
Live cabaret at 10pm

EVERY SUNDAY
Karaoke with Joeyoke

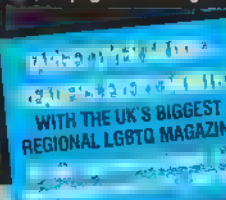
NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS

18 St. Anns St, NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432
/gaybar.nottingham

PROPAGANDA

8-10 Broadway, Lace Market
Tel: 0115 979 9183
/PropagandaNottingham



Nightingale Club, Birmingham

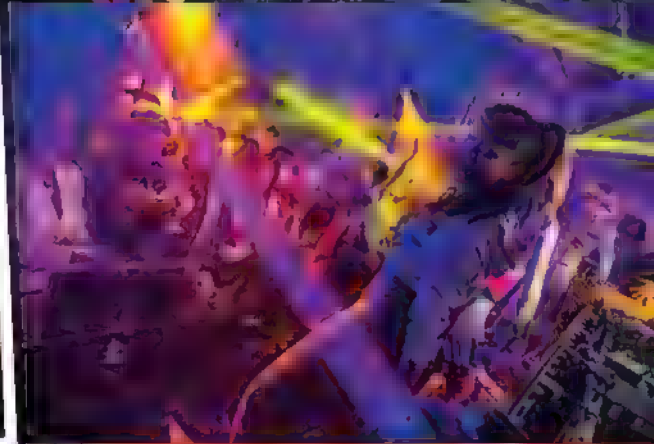
SCENE

THE NIGHTINGALE BIRMINGHAM

February saw the incredible Alexandra
Burke perform at The Nightingale's massive
NYE Re-run party
- and boy did she put on a show!

The club has announced the return of their
Big Gale Pride Pass - giving you entry to the
venue for the entirety of Birmingham Pride
(Fri 22 - Sun 24 May) for only £11!

(*Check the back cover for more details)



SCENE



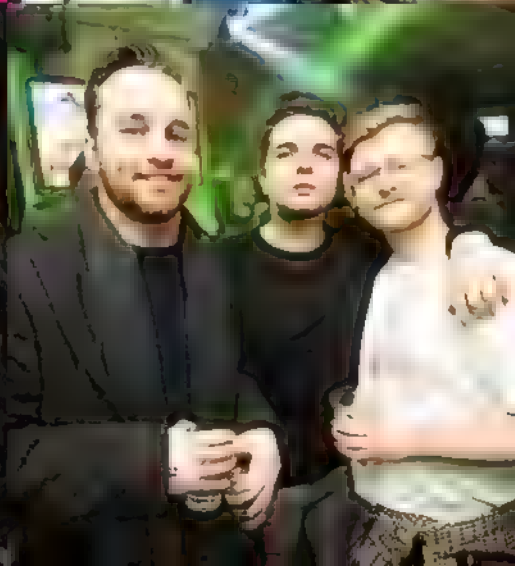
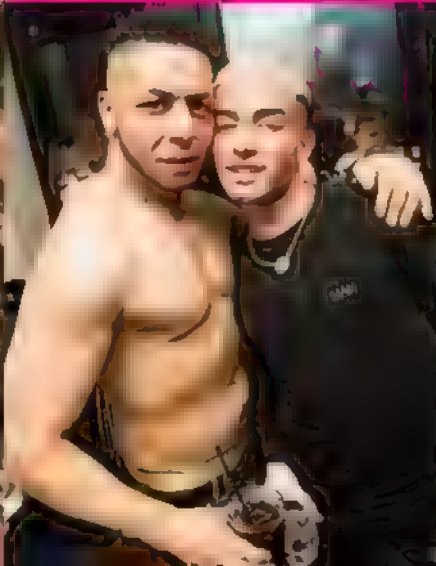
VILLAGE INN

BIRMINGHAM

Open seven days a week and boasting karaoke and cabaret galore, The Village Inn has no trouble putting in the crowds.

And this month the gang are in celebratory mood with numerous Midlands Zone Readers Awards under their collective belt!

And to help them celebrate in style, The Vivienne, Miss Penny, Sam Ting Wong and Sandra London will be taking to the stage (check advert for more details)



MARCH

FRI 6TH MAR

**THE
VIVIENNE**

FROM

RuPaul UK
DRAK RACE

SEASON 1

FRI 20TH MAR

**SUM TING
WONG**

FROM

RuPaul UK
DRAK RACE

SEASON 1

FRI 13TH MAR

**MISS
PENNY**

FRI 27TH MAR

**SANDRA
LONDON**

WEDNESDAYS

**QUEENY'S BINGO
GUARANTEED
£120 WEEKLY**

**LBR MONDAYS
£1 DRINKS & OPEN TIL 4AM**

TUESDAYS

**PLAY YOUR
CARDS RIGHT
WITH BLANCHE**

CASH PRIZES

WEDNESDAYS

**KARAOKE
WITH
PORKPIE**

THURSDAYS

**MISS MARTY'S
THIRSTY
THURSDAYS**

CABARET & GAMES

WEDNESDAYS

**THE CHURCH
OF YSHEE**

**LIP SYNCING
COMPETITION**

THE VILLAGE INN

152 HIGH ST. BIRMINGHAM B5 4ET



@VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM



@THEVILLAGEBRUM



@VILLAGEBRUM

Eden Bar in Birmingham's Gay Village
presents the very best cabaret
from across the country.

This month is all about fetish, with the popular venue hosting Birmingham Fetish Men's leather weekend, Midsbears, leather social and club scratches events.

And don't forget that Saturday the 28th sees Eden celebrating its birthday with a very special guest to be announced!

(see advert opposite for more details)

QUIZZICAL!
The smartphone
QUIZ
WEDNESDAYS 8PM

WITH DJ YOGI SpeedQuizzing

KARAOKE & DISCO
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY

WITH DJ NIKKI

MARCH

@ **The Marquee**

SAT 7th
Drag Punk
Presents
Battle Of The Drags

eden

SAT 7TH

DANNY BEARD

THU 12TH

THE FABULOUS CERI DUPREE

FRI 13TH

SAT 14TH

BFM LEATHER WEEKEND
FULL DETAILS [/GROUPS/BFETISHMEN/](#)

FRI 20TH

MIDSBEARs

FRI 20TH

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
DJ SIMON BAKER
11PM-3AM - FREE ENTRY - MARQUEE

SAT 21ST

MARY MAC - BULLS DEEP

SUN 22ND

LEATHER SOCIAL

FRI 27TH

BEAR'S BIRMINGHAM BASH

SAT 28TH

EDEN BIRTHDAY PARTY
ENTERTAINMENT TBC

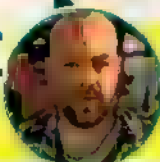
A huge thank you
for our
Midlands Zone Awards
and your
continuing support!

Cine den
3PM SUN 8TH

den
3PM SUN 29TH



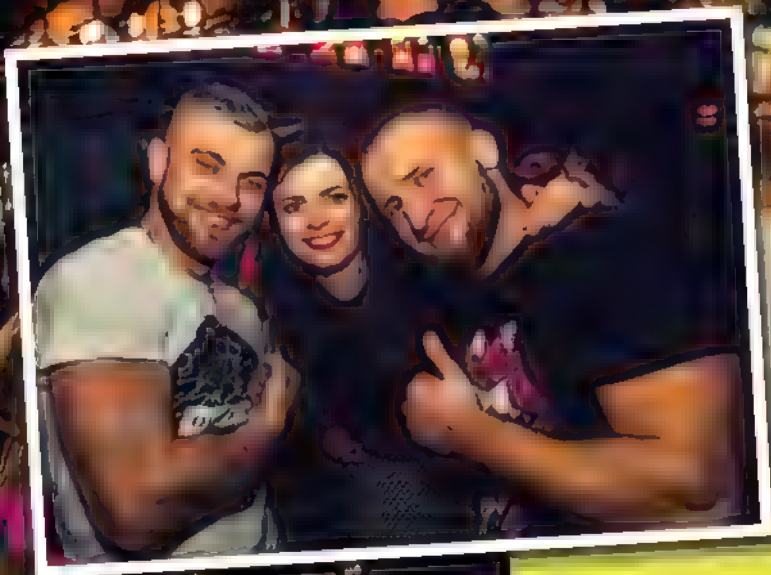
DJ TONI LEE
SAT 14TH MAIN BAR
SAT 28TH



DJ PONI
SAT 7TH
SAT 21ST

Open from 2pm Mon-Fri 2pm Sat & Sun | 116 Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | 0121 622 1953 | www.TheEdenBar.co.uk

SCENE



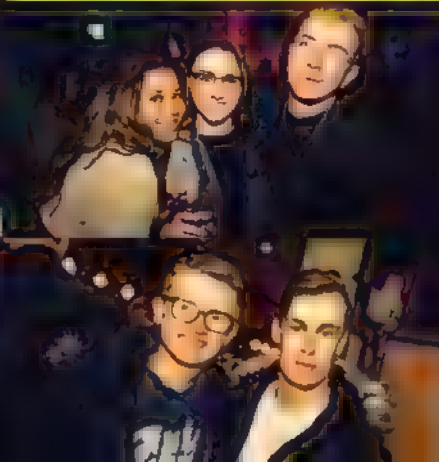
THE YARD COVENTRY

One of Coventry's busiest and best LGBTQ+ venues. The Yard is packed out week after week.

This month the bar is set to make a big splash as it hosts The Big Yard Pool Party on Thursday the 5th.

Guests will be able to try out Coventry's The Wave waterpark for just £5 quid – and then head back to The Yard for karaoke, half-price food and DJ Paul Morrell.

(see advert for more details)



MARCH

AT THE YARD

TUESDAY - QUIZ NIGHT

WEDNESDAY - LIVE MUSIC

THURSDAY - KARAOKE

FRIDAY - CABARET & 80'S

SATURDAY - DJ SIMON BAKER

SUNDAY - BINGO N' SH-T



THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 7-9.30PM

THE BIG YARD POOL PARTY

WITH DJ PAUL MORRELL



THE
wave

   **THEYARDCOVENTRY**
THEYARDCOVENTRY.CO.UK



SCAN ME

[illegible]

SCENE

HAVANA
REPUBLIC

LIVE & DANCE

THE HAVANA REPUBLIC IS A NEW
CONCEPT OF A NIGHT CLUB
WITH A DIFFERENT VIBE
AND A DIFFERENT SOUND
THE HAVANA REPUBLIC IS A NEW
CONCEPT OF A NIGHT CLUB
WITH A DIFFERENT VIBE
AND A DIFFERENT SOUND

SCENE

HAVANA
REPUBLIC



HAVANA ★ REPUBLIC

Miss Penny's FABULOUS MONDAYS!

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT OUT IN THE MIDLANDS



SANDRA
LONDON

BRENDA
LABEAU

DRAG WITH
NO NAME



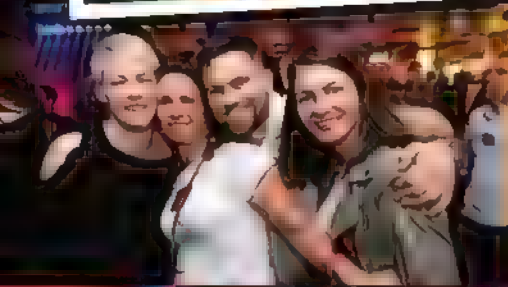
FREE ENTRY 94 121

OPEN UNTIL 4AM!

GREAT DJ DRINKS

18 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AE 01743 271821

SCENE



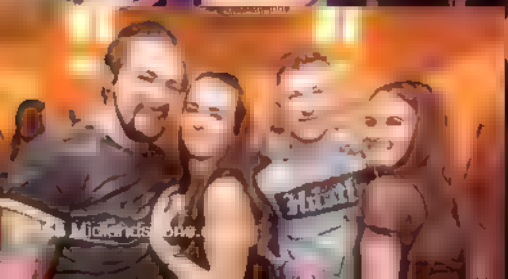
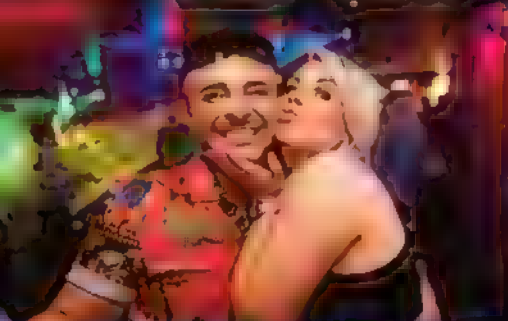
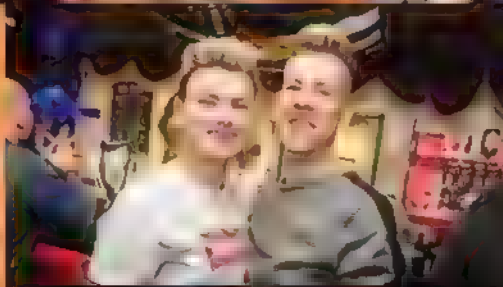
BAR DIVA

From Blackpool to Bar Diva – the fantastic Miss Amber was just one of many acts to light up the Dudley venue's stage in February.

This month's Saturday cabaret line-up includes the fabulous Miss Marty.

Friends Of Dorothy and
RuPaul's Drag Race's Charlie Hides!

(see advert for more details)

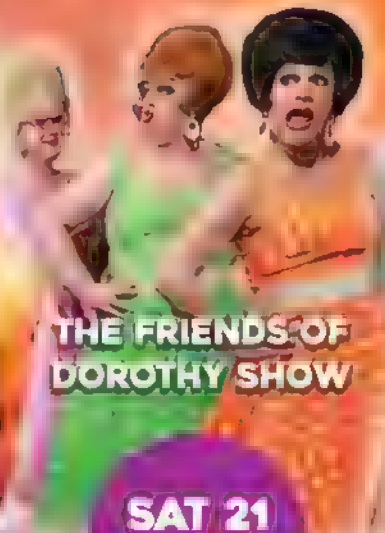


BAR DIVA!



MISS MARTY

**SAT 14
MARCH**



THE FRIENDS OF
DOROTHY SHOW

**SAT 21
MARCH**



CHARLIE HIDES

**SAT 28
MARCH**



SHANIA PAIN

**SAT 4
APRIL**

ALL NEW WEEK NIGHTS FROM 9-11

MONDAYS MISH MASH MONDAYS WITH MISS ANNIE

THURSDAYS THE PRICE IS RIGHT WITH MISS ANNIE AND GUESTS
KARAOKE GAMES AND DRINK PROMOTIONS ALL NIGHT

FRIDAYS FREAKY FRIDAYS WITH DJ MIKEY AND GUEST DJS

SATURDAYS CABARET SATURDAYS WITH TOP CLASS CABARET
WITH MISS ANNIE AND GUEST DJS

SUNDAYS SUNDAY SOCIAL WITH MISS MARTY + MISS ANNIE
FUN GAMES AND PRIZE TO GIVE AWAY

BAR DIVA

LOWER PLAZA MALL, KING STREET, DUDLEY DY2 8NZ

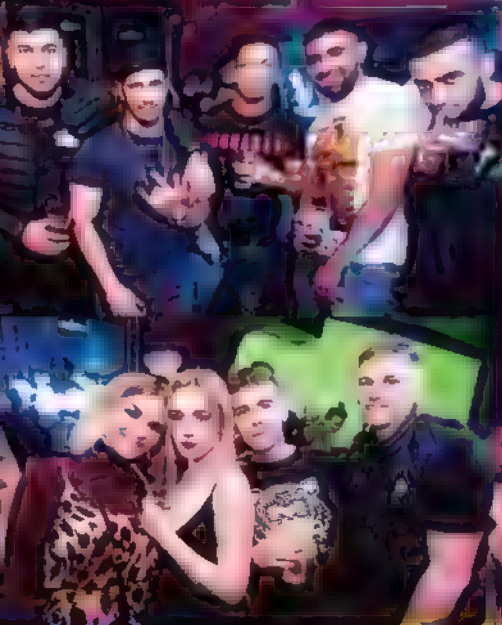


AWARD WINNER



/BarDivaThePlaceToBe

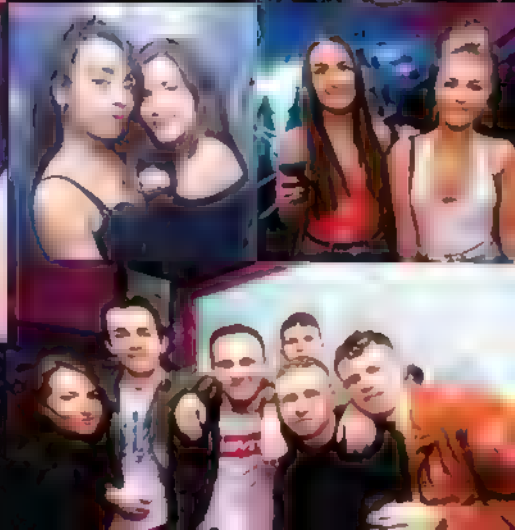
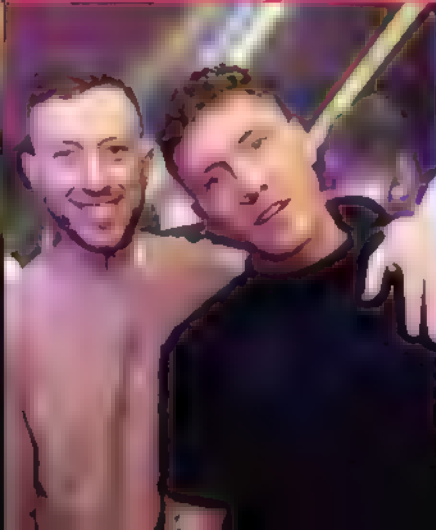
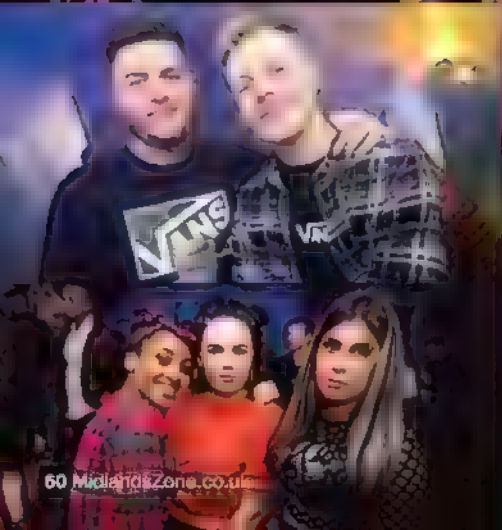
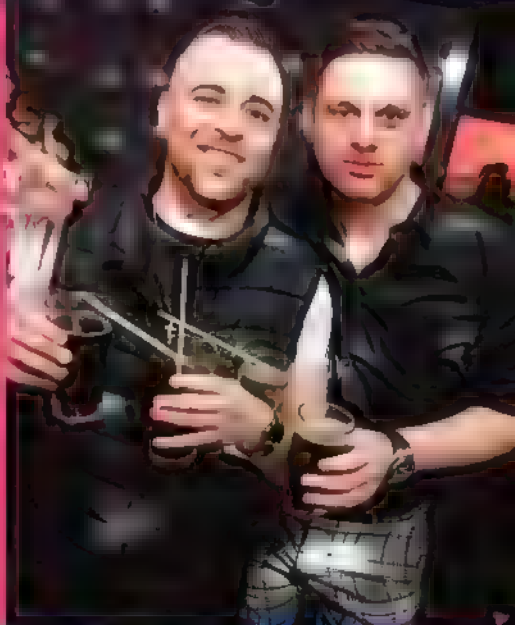
SCENE



GORGEOUS WOLVERHAMPTON

Gorgeous is home to The Breakfast Club,
one of Wolverhampton's busiest club nights
taking place every Saturday
from 11pm till 6am.

There's Fab Fridays to enjoy too,
with DJ James Levelt live on the decks!
With a mashup of commercial R&B,
a bit of soul, funk and disco & more
you'll be dancing all night long!



GORGEOUS

THURSDAY 11-6AM | FRIDAY 12-6AM | SATURDAY 11PM-6AM

2 BARS | VIP BOOTHS | VIP LOUNGE

KEEPING WOLVERHAMPTON OUT!

OFFICIALLY THE MIDLANDS BEST GAY NIGHTCLUB! (MIDLANDS ZONE AWARDS)

WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

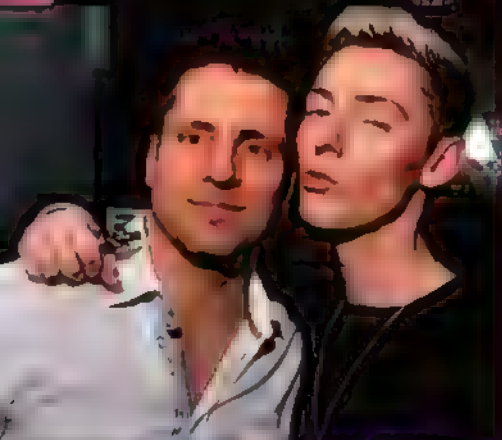
FACEBOOK: /GORGEOUSNIGHTCLUB | TWITTER: @GORGEOUSWTON
GORGEOUS | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF | 01902 771122

SCENE



THE BOSTON

THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON
THE BOSTON



THE BOSTON

NORTHAMPTON

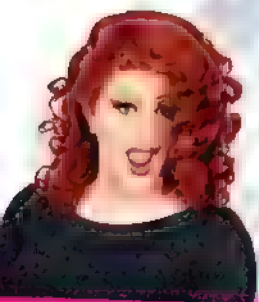
LIVE CABARET
EVERY SATURDAY 10PM



RuPaul's DRAG RACE
SEASON 12
VIEW PARTY **ON THE BEYONCÉ**
FROM 9PM

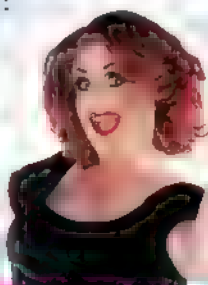
SAT 07 MAR

**FANNY
BURNS**



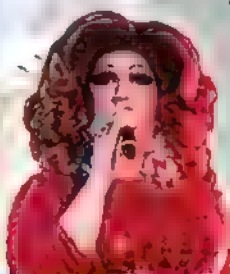
SAT 14 MAR

**LOLA
LASAGNE**



SAT 21 MAR

**BELLA
END**



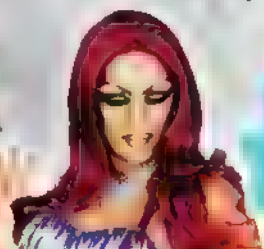
SAT 28 MAR

**WILMA
FINGADOO**



SAT 04 APR

**MISS
MARTY**



SAT 11 APR

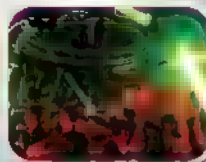
**JADE
JUSTINE**



FREE ENTRY B4 11 • **OPEN UNTIL 6AM** • **FREE SHOT WITH EVERY DRINK**
+ DJ CILLA | HOUSE | CHART | POP (BETWEEN 9PM - 11PM)

FRIDAYS
PINK POUNDER (€1 DRINKS)

Feat. **DJ DARREN S**
Playing The Best Pop / Chart / Dance / R&B
MOST DRINKS ONLY £1.00 EACH
£9 ENTRY | 10PM - 4:30AM
+ FANTASTIC DEALS ON
SHOTS & BOMBS



SUNDAYS
KARAOKE

Feat. **JOEYOKE**
1000'S OF SONGS AVAILABLE
FREE ENTRY ALL NIGHT
2 X COCKTAILS 4 £8.50
4 X BOMBS 4 £10.00
10PM - 2AM



THE BOSTON, COLLEGE ST, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 2QP . 01604 604404
FACEBOOK.COM/THEBOSTONNORTHAMPTON



GREENHOUSE

www.gay-sauna.com



**WHY GO TO THE CITY WHEN YOU
CAN HAVE EVERYTHING IN ONE PLACE.**



LUTON

23 Crawley Road
Luton, Beds, LU1 1HX
01582 487701



NEWPORT

24 Church Street
Newport, Wales, NP20 2BY
01633221172

DARLASTON

Willenhall Road, Darlaston
West Midlands, WS10 8JG
0121 568 6126

FREE PUNCH, DJ EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN DARLASTON!



GLAMOROUS
BIRMINGHAM & COVENTRY

It's always party time at Glamorous, open seven days a week and licensed until 6am!

Both venues in Coventry and Birmingham also have a brand new line-up for 2020 – so be sure to check it out! (see advert below for more details)



GLAMOROUS

BAR & NIGHTCLUB

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK! LICENSED UNTIL 6AM!

BIRMINGHAM

WEEKEND AFTERPARTY MONDAYS
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY

TEMPTED? TUESDAYS
WITH PAM CATZ

MIDWEEK WEDNESDAYS
PLAYING THE BIG ANTHEMS
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY

THIRSTY THURSDAYS
AMAZING DRINK OFFERS UNTIL 2AM
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY

FABULOUS FRIDAYS
START YOUR WEEKEND RIGHT
WITH PAM CATZ! OPEN 12AM - 6AM

SPARKLE POP SATURDAYS
PLAYING POP, CHART, DANCE, DISNEY
AND SHOW TUNES WITH DJ PAM CATZ
31 HURST ST, BIRMINGHAM, B5 4BD

COVENTRY

KAMIKAZE KARAOKE TUESDAYS
KARAOKE & OPEN THE BOX WITH JELLY CUBE

AFTR DRK WEDNESDAYS
STUDENTS DISCOUNTS & THE
BIGGEST HOUSE AND R'n'B TUNES

KAPOW! THURSDAYS
£1 DRINKS ALL NIGHT
WITH RICHARD ALEXANDER

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!
HUGE ANTHEMS FROM RICHARD ALEXANDER

HAUS OF CUBE SATURDAYS
LOCAL TALENT SHOWCASE FROM 9PM

ANDY'S SUNDAY FUNDAY
AN EVENING OF FUN + GAMES WITH ANDY
WHERE YOU CAN WIN!

88 SHORT ST, COVENTRY, CV1 2LX



NEW LINE-UP
FOR 2020!



SCENE



THE LOFT
BIRMINGHAM

With craft beers, contemporary cocktails, a locally sourced food menu, speciality gins and a fully heated garden in the heart of Birmingham, what's not to love about The Loft!



Part of

What's On
MEDIA GROUP

Offices:
Wynner House,
Bromsgrove St,
Birmingham B5 6RG
and
13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE

Get connected...



@midlandszone



@midlandszone

Editor-in-Chief & Publisher: **Martin Monahan** Editorial: **Brian O'Faolain** brian@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281701
Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281704
Managing Director: **Davina Evans** Subscriptions: **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281714
Graphic Designers: **Abi Whitehouse**, **Lisa Wassell**, **Chris Atherton** Accounts: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717
Contributors: **Lauren Cole**, **Steve Ball**, **Lacey Lou**, **Patsy Moss**, **Laura Byrne**

This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine. We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

All works appearing in this publication are copyright. It is to be assumed that the copyright for material rests with the magazine unless otherwise stated. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in an electronic system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior knowledge and consent of the publishers.



SQUIRT
.org

Real Men. Real Hookups.

VISIT WWW.SQUIRT.ORG AND
CHECK OUT OUR NEW FEATURES:

- ▶ Video
- 🔔 Push Notifications
- 🔍 Search Filters
- ... and more!





THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

THE BIG GALE PRIDE PASS 2020

Information

Pass entry for the Nightingale Club
at Birmingham Pride:

Fri 22nd, Sat 23rd & Sun 24th May

tickets from £11 at nightingaleclub.co.uk



@THENIGHTINGALECLUB



@THENIGHTINGALECLUB



@NIGHTINGALECLUB